

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE ISSUE

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, BOOKS AND LETTERS RELATED TO THE 19TH CENTURY ATTEMPT OF THE LAWRENCE FAMILY TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT LINE DESCENT FROM SIR ROBERT LAWRENCE OF ASHTON HALL

ORGANIZED AND ASSEMBLED BY ROBERT L. JACKSON
2002 - 2003

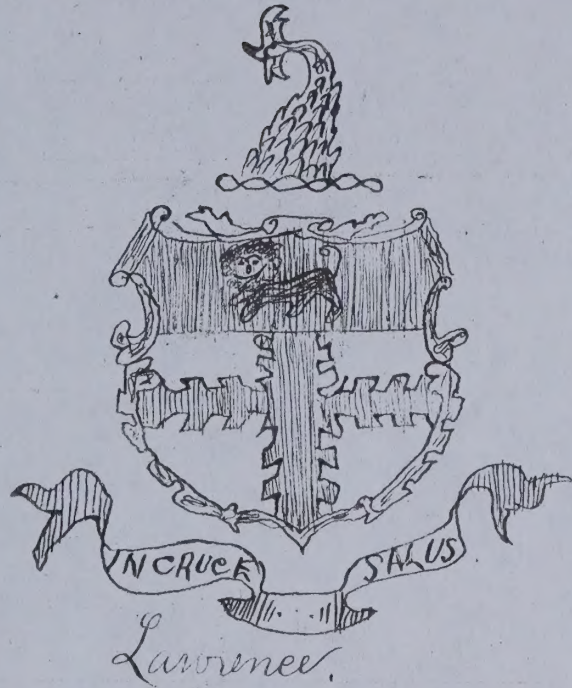
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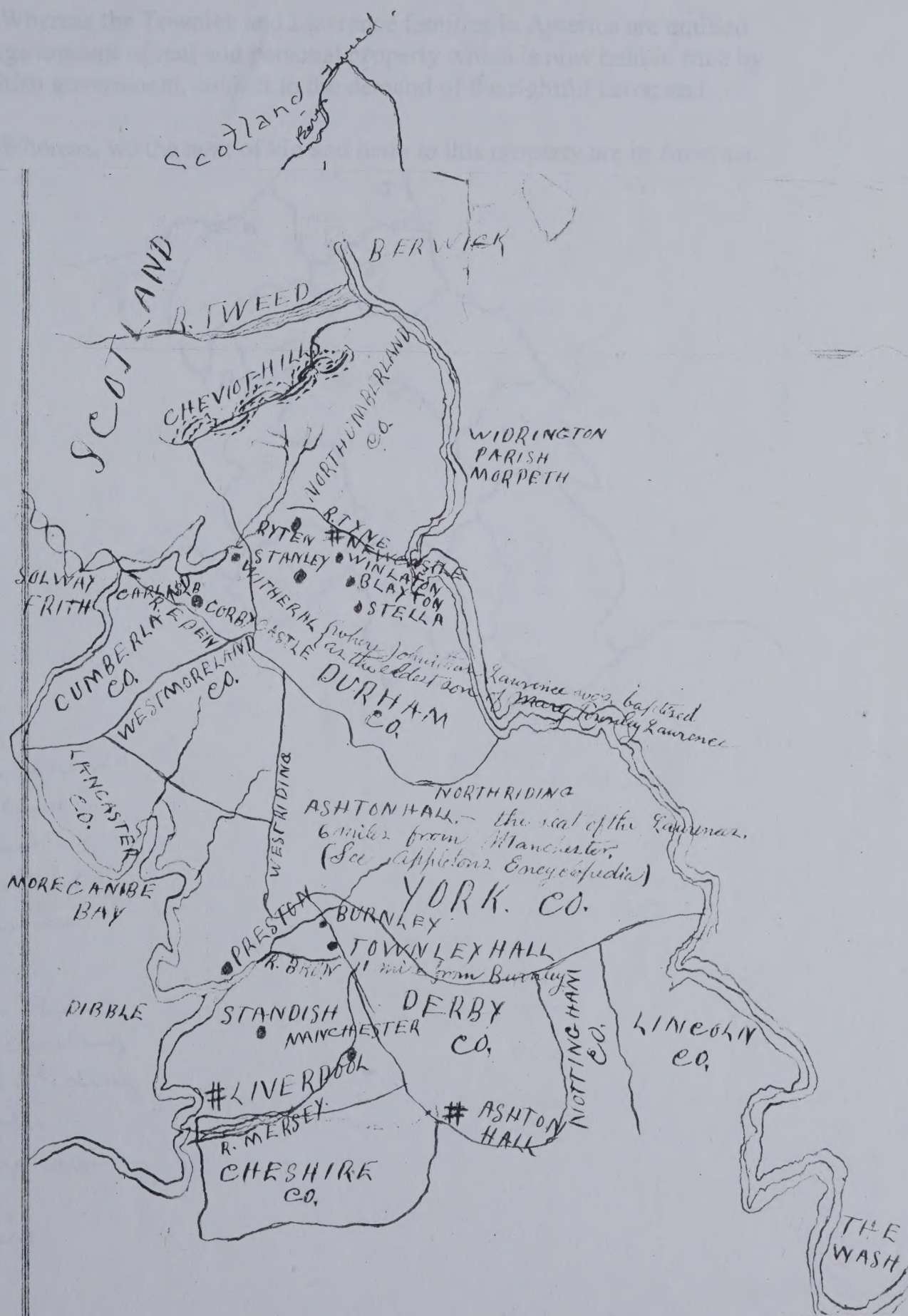
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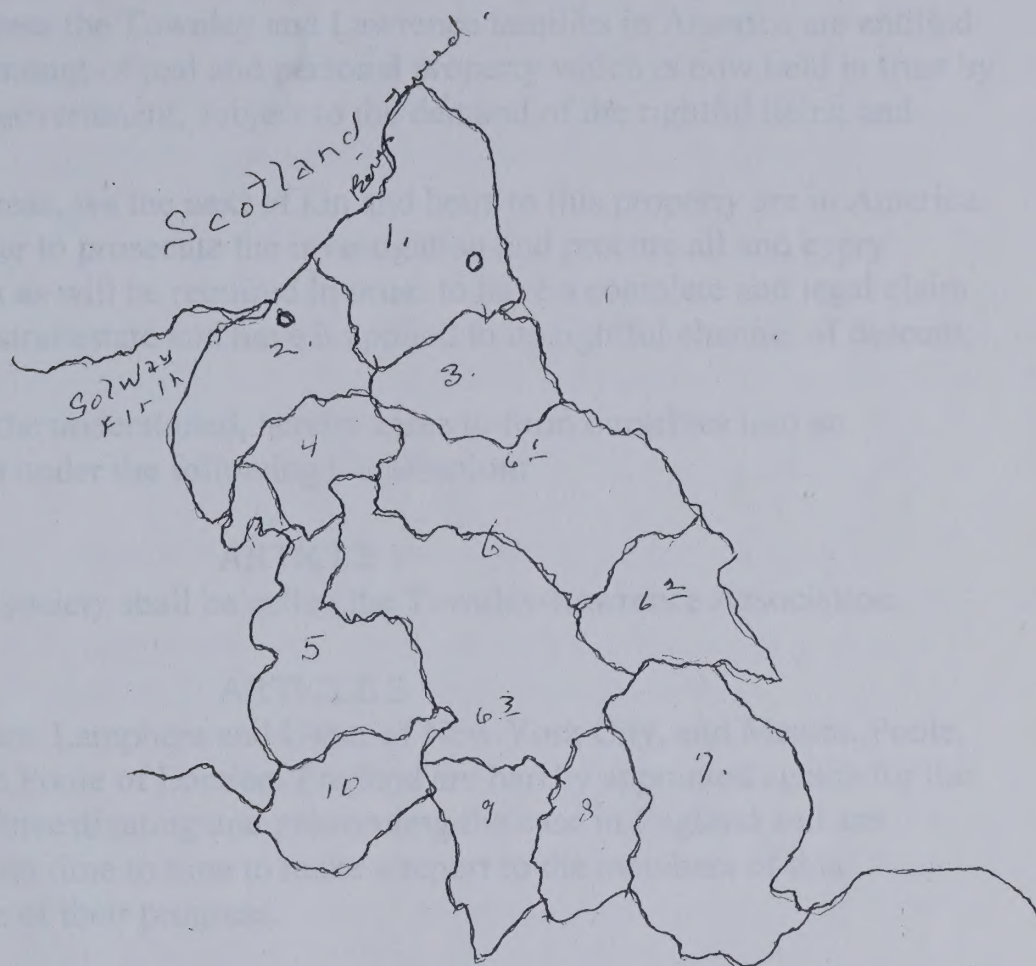
ancestry from records in Norwich, sent from Owasso, Michigan September 25th, 1895.

- b. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from D. E. Harras, Fort Gratoit, (Port Huron, Michigan) disputing Geare's claims. September 22, 1885.
9. a. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Mrs. Sarah Fargo; having read about the Estate, sent a partial genealogy.
b. Letter: To Mr. Van Wie from J. M. Chase, Olathe, Kansas, regarding the Lawrence-Townley claim and the English court system.
10. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Almon Lawrence regarding the genealogical listings. (Some support for continuing research)
12. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Will Parsons (Ohio) regarding heirship to the Lawrence-Townley Estate, November 8, 1885. Included in the letter is a genealogy which has not been reproduced at this time.
13. Letter: From Mr. George W. Langdon, Baraboo, Wisconsin to Porter Lawrence on genealogical issues. Letter includes information on the funeral of John Lawrence and his wife.
14. a. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from Mrs. A. W. Day (Anna), Monkton Ridge, Vermont, January 1886, regarding genealogy.
b. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from Mrs. A. W. Day (Anna) Monkton Ridge, Vermont, February 8, 1886.
15. a. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from William Northcote Geare, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Chase-Townley Association, Toronto, Canada, September 8, 1886
16. a. Article: Utica Morning Herald, January 22, 1894 sent to Robert L. Jackson by Susan Peters in June 2002. Writer unknown, partial content.
b. Article: The Freeman's Journal, Dublin. Monday, February 1, 1886. Copied by Porter Lawrence, 1886.
17. a. Descendants of John Lawrence, generation 2 from the Family Treemaker, Summer, 2002.
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/w.../GENE-2-0002.html?welcome=102414564>
b. Addendum to the second generation of American Lawrences, rewritten for personal use by R. Jackson.
18. Letter: A lengthy epistle from a Baltimore, Maryland Lawrence family member (not identified in the letter) to Mr. John Lawrence of Bennington, Vermont and probably forwarded to Porter J. Lawrence, October 3, 1886
19. Book, History- History of the Lawrence-Townley and Chase-Townley Estates in England, James Usher, New York, 1883
20. Abstracts: Book of Frank Alden Hill, The Mystery Solved, Published by Rand, Avery of Boston, 1888



Scott





1. Northumberland.
2. Cumberland
3. Durham
4. Westmorland
5. Lancashire
6. York.
- 6¹. North Riding
- 6². East Riding
- 6³. West Riding
7. Lincoln
8. Nottingham
9. Derby
10. Cheshire

THE TOWNLEY-LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION

Whereas the Townley and Lawrence families in America are entitled to a large amount of real and personal property which is now held in trust by the British government, subject to the demand of the rightful heirs; and

Whereas, we the next of kin and heirs to this property are in America. Now in order to prosecute the investigation and procure all and every information as will be required in order to have a complete and legal claim to our ancestral estate and have it applied to its rightful channel of descent;

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to form ourselves into an Association under the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1

This society shall be called the Townley-Lawrence Association.

ARTICLE 2

Messrs. Lamphere and Usher of New York City, and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole of London, England are hereby appointed agents for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting the case in England and are required from time to time to make a report to the members of this Association of their progress.

ARTICLE III

The aforesaid Messrs. Lamphere and Usher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole are to be allowed five hundred dollars for the purpose of making an investigation of the case in England, and for procuring full particulars of the situation, nature and value of the said property, and whatever evidence is necessary to prove out rights in the courts, and in addition thereto we agree to pay to the said Messrs. Lamphere and Usher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole ten (10) percent of the value of all real, personal and mixed property which they shall recover for our use and benefit.

ARTICLE IV.

All persons upon signing these articles of Association and agreement shall become members of the Association and shall pay the sum of ten (10)

dollars as a membership fee, to be devoted to the expenses of the suit as before stated.

ARTICLE V.

No member of this Association shall be liable to pay more than ten dollars as expenses or compensation or otherwise to any person or persons whatever.

ARTICLE VI.

The interest of any member of this Association shall be transferable according to law and in case of the death of any member his or her interest shall descend to his or her heirs.

ARTICLE VII.

All members of this Association agree to render whatever aid and assistance that may be in their power and to furnish all information and documents in their possession connected with the said estate, and to mutually co-operate in the prosecution of the claim.

ARTICLE VIII.

In case of success, should any member of the Association fail to make their claim valid his or her fee will be refunded and the branch of the family which gains the estate and money is to bear all the expenses and refund to those who contribute and get nothing and in addition thereto, each member of this Association shall be entitled to the sum of one hundred dollars out of the money recovered. Said bonus shall be made payable on the recovery of the property by such members by such members of this Association as shall recover the property. And out of the first proceeds after payment of the costs of suits and not otherwise and shall be a lien on said estate to be paid and discharged or money retained and therefore, before any division or distribution is made to the heirs. (It is expressly understood that I am not to be liable in any way for any costs, fees or expenses either alone or jointly) In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 19th day of September, 1881.

Porter J. Lawrence

We undersigned witness this to be a true copy of the original constitution sent to Lamphere and Usher, New York City.

Signed: John A. Jackson Camilla C. Jackson

The Bowdley - Lawrence Association

Whereas, The Bowdley & Lawrence families in America are entitled to a large amount of real and personal property which is now held in trust of the British Government, subject to the demand of the rightful heirs; and

Whereas, We the next of kin & heirs to this property are in America. Now in order to prosecute the investigation, & procure all & every information as will be required in order to have a complete & legal chain of facts & evidence whereby we can claim to our ancestral estate, and have it applied to its rightful channel of descent;

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to form ourselves into an Association, under the following

"Constitution."

Article 1

This society shall be called the
Townley - Lawrence Association

Article 2

Messrs. Lambphere & Asher, of New York City, and Messrs. Poole, Hughes & Poole, of London, England, are hereby appointed agents for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting the case in England, and are required from time to time to make a report to the members of this Association of their progress.

Article III

The aforesaid Messrs. Lambphere & Asher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes & Poole are ~~to~~ to be allowed five hundred dollars for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the case in England, and for procuring full particulars of the situation, nature and value of said property, and whatever evidence is

necessary to prove our rights in the Courts; and in addition thereto we agree to pay to the said Messrs.

Campbell & Fisher and Messrs Poole & Hughes and Poole ten (10) per cent. of the value of all real, personal and mixed property which they shall recover for our use and benefit.

Article IV

All persons upon signing these articles of association and agreement shall become members of the Association, and shall pay the sum of ten (10) dollars as a membership fee, to be devoted to the expenses of the suit, as before stated,

Article V

No member of this Association shall be liable to pay more than ten dollars as expenses or compensation or otherwise to any person or persons whatever,

Article VI

The interest of any member of this Association shall be transferable according to law, and in case of the death of any member his or her interest shall descend to his or her heirs.

Article VII

All members of this Association agree to render whatever aid & assistance that may be in their power, and to furnish all information & documents in their possession connected with the said estate, and to mutually co-operate in the prosecution of the claim.

Article VIII

In case of success, should any member of the Association fail to make their claim valid, his or her fee will be refunded & the branch of the family which gains the estate & money is to bear all the expenses, & refund to those who contribute

and get nothing, and in addition
there to each member of this Association
shall be entitled to the sum of one
hundred dollars out of the money
recovered; said bonus shall be made
payable on the recovery of the property
by such members of this Association as
shall recover the property, & out of the first
proceeds after payment of the costs of suit,
and not otherwise, & shall be a lien on said
estate to be paid & discharged, or money
retained therefor before any division or
distribution is made to the heirs. (It is
expressly understood that I am not to be
liable in any way, for any costs, fees, or expenses
either alone or jointly).

In testimony whereof, we have here-
unto set our hands & seals, this the
19th day of Sept., 1881.

Partes J. Lawrence

We undersigned witness this to be
a true copy of original Constitution
sent to Sampson & Fisher, New York City
over

1695-1697 - This must be a mistake - John L. & M. sons who survived him one of them - age, so that as they both survived him - John L. & M. must have died between 1695-1697 - 1693 had 2 at 2 years of age

Copy of opinion in reference to Lawrence Towneley Estate

We have considered the case submitted to us with the accompanying table of pedigrees and the certificates of marriages and deaths shown to us from which it would appear amongst other material matters -
1 That Lebius Lawrence died in 1818 leaving several children heirs surviving, and amongst others, his eldest son John A. Lawrence, and his second son Wm. T. Lawrence.
2 That his eldest son John A. Lawrence died in 1857, leaving one son Norman J. Lawrence him surviving.
3 That Norman J. Lawrence died in 1861 without issue him surviving.
4 That William T. Lawrence the second son of Lebius Lawrence above named thereupon became and is the heir at law of the said Lebius Lawrence.
5 That Lebius Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence who was born in 1739 and died in 1816.
6 That Jonathan Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who died in 1769.
7 That Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) was the second son of John Lawrence and Mary Towneley who died in 1673 leaving two sons him surviving John Lawrence his eldest son who died an infant only two years of age, and therefore without issue, and the above named Jonathan Lawrence (the elder).
8 That Mary Towneley who was married to John Lawrence in 1693 was the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Towneley and the Hon^{ble} Mary Widdington who died leaving one son John Towneley whose issue has failed, and two daughters the above named Mary Towneley and one Dorothy Towneley who was married to Henry Steward (afterwards Lord Effingham and died without issue).
9 It would therefore appear that William T. Lawrence is the heir at law of Lebius Lawrence, who was the heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who was the heir at law of John Lawrence and Mary Towneley, and that Mary Towneley was the heiress at law of Sir Richard Towneley and the Hon^{ble} Mary Widdington -
10 From the certificates shown to us it would appear that the foregoing matters are all susceptible of easy proof. -
11 In our opinion William Towneley Lawrence is entitled to recover the lands belonging to those of his ancestors above named, through whom he claims as heir at law, unless it can be shown that such right has been interfered with by will or settlement not appearing in the case - but the nature of the estates not being before us, we have deemed it proper to make mention of this qualification

Wated. Towneley 16th May, 1876.

Blake Kew & Boyd

Copy of Opinion in Reference to Lawrence/Townley Estate

We have considered the case submitted to us with the accompanying table of pedigree and the certificates of marriages and deaths shown to us from which it would appear amongst other material matters that Lebius Lawrence died in 1818 leaving several children heirs surviving, and amongst others, his eldest son John A. Lawrence, and his second son, William T. Lawrence.

That his eldest son, John A. Lawrence died in 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence him surviving.

That Norman J. Lawrence died in 1861 without issue him surviving

That William T. Lawrence the second son of Lebius Lawrence above named thereupon became and is the heir at law of the said Lebius Lawrence

That Lebius Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence who was born in 1739 and died in 1816

That Jonathan Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who died in 1769.

That Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) was the second son of John Lawrence and Mary Townley who died in 1673 leaving two sons him surviving-John Lawrence his eldest son who died an infant only two years of age, and therefore without issue, and the above named Jonathan Lawrence (the elder). *

That Mary Townley who was married to John Lawrence in 1693 was the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Townley and the Honorable Mary Widdrington who died leaving one son John Townley whose issue has failed, and two daughters- the above named Mary Townley and one Dorothy Townley who was married to Henry Howard (afterwards) Lord Effingham and died without issue.

It would therefore appear that William T. Lawrence is the heir at law of Lebius Lawrence, who was the heir at law of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, and that Mary Townley was the heiress at law of Sir Richard Townley and the Honorable Mary Widdrington.

From the certificates shown to us it would appear that the foregoing matters are all susceptible of easy proof.

In our opinion, William Townley Lawrence is entitled to recover the lands belonging to those of his ancestors above named, through whom he claims as heir at law, unless it can be shown that such right has been interfered with by will or settlement not appearing in the case- but the nature of the estates not being before us, we have deemed it proper to make mention of this qualification.

Dated Toronto 16th May 1876

Blake Kerr & Boyd

*(You will observe the note on the top of this opinion has been in part, mutilated but perhaps can be completed by appropriate interpolation to read as follow:

NOTE: This must be a mistake- John Lawrence and Mary Townley had 2 sons who survived him, one of them, John Lawrence died at two years of age, so that as they both survived him, John Lawrence must have died between 1695 & 1697)

It is unclear who wrote this note.

Copy of Opinion

In giving my opinion on the claim of William Towneley Lawrence to the Lawrence Towneley Estates in England - I feel it unnecessary to extend such opinion to any length by entering into the particulars respecting the descent of claimant, certificates of marriage, births, and other documents, as such are set forth in the bill prepared by me, but deem it sufficient to say that after having been engaged for many months upon the case. Examining records and evidence along with family traditions (the latter being admissible evidence in such cases). I have now no hesitation in giving my opinion that William Towneley Lawrence is the heir at law to the said estates, and moreover that the existing proofs are of such a nature that as to lead me to believe that there can be comparatively no difficulty and little delay in proving the claim, and obtaining the award of the Court of Chancery in favor of the claimant - I might also say that I am fortified in my belief by the opinion of Messrs Blake, Kerr & Boyd together with the evidence now in possession and that the case scarcely admits of a doubt.

Signed Wm H & Collis Kent
Solicitor

Toronto
26th May - 1876

High Court - Chancery Ireland

William Northcote Gear (President)

Silas Vernon (Vice Pres)

Sturgeson Stewart (Secretary)

Re

Lawrence-Towneley Estates.

Trust Deed

TO

The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Assoc'n.

BLAKE, LASH, CASSELLS & HOLMAN.

This Indenture,

made the

day of _____, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-_____. BETWEEN the several persons whose hands and seals are hereto set and who severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is generally known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, more minutely described as the Widdrington Estate, in Widdrington Parish, Northumberland County; the Tempest Estates, in Durham County, including the Stella, Stanley and Bowland Estates; the Lord Effingham Howard Estate, in County of Durham, known as Corby Castle; the Standish Estate, in the County of York, and the Towneley Estates proper, in the County of Lancashire, known in England and comprehended under the general designation of "The Towneley Estates," hereinafter called the Claimants, of the First Part, and William Northcote Geare, Esquire, Professor S. Vernoy and Sturgeon Stewart, Esquire, all of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, hereinafter called the Executive, who, together with a Board of Trustees and a Board of Directors, as from time to time duly appointed, are collectively designated "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," of the Second Part: WHEREAS, the Claimants severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, as above described, and are desirous of having their claims presented and prosecuted with vigor; And whereas, a large number of persons who severally claim interests or shares in said estates, formed themselves into an association called "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," hereinafter referred to as "The Association," the Head Office of which is at present at No. 21 Yonge Street Arcade, Toronto, the object of such Association being declared to be: "To faithfully, honourably, and with all diligence, prosecute the claims of the "Lawrence-Towneley heirs to the estates now awaiting them." AND WHEREAS, in or about the month of August, A.D. 1885, an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland was passed intituled—"An Act for carrying into effect the division of certain "hereditaments known as the Towneley estate, in the Counties of Lancaster and York, the estate in the Forest of Bowland in "the same counties, and the Stella and Stanley estates, in the County of Durham; and for other purposes." AND WHEREAS, in order that the Claimants' claims may be duly presented and prosecuted with less expense than would be possible were they to be presented and prosecuted individually, and in order that the necessary funds may be raised for the purpose, the Claimants have agreed to transfer their respective claims: NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, that each of the Claimants, in consideration of the signatures by the others to these presents, and in further consideration of the various stipulations herein contained, and of one dollar in cash by them in hand well and truly paid, doth hereby grant, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Association, its administrators and successors, according to the nature thereof, all his or her estate, right, title, interest, claim, share and demand of whatever kind, in, to and out of the estates, lands, tenements, hereditaments, leaseholds, mines, minerals, royalties, monies, chattels, choses in action, and properties of all and every kind, whether real, personal or mixed, which belong to or form part of, or go to make up that which is known or called the "Lawrence-Towneley Estates," including among all others (if any) the estates mentioned or referred to in said Act of the Parliament of Great Britain: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said Association, their heirs, executors, administrators and successors according to the nature thereof Upon Trust to get in, collect, receive and convert into money, the estates, rights, titles, interests, claims, shares and demands hereby granted, assigned, transferred and set over, and to do all acts and things, and sign, seal, execute and deliver all such writings, deeds, discharges and other documents, whatsoever, that may be expedient or necessary in that behalf, and to hold, apply and distribute the monies and proceeds according to the terms hereof. PROVIDED ALWAYS, that the Executive shall in all matters act under the lawful directions and control of the said Association. THE said Association is hereby authorized and empowered to raise such sums of money from time to time upon the security of the trust estate, and the proceeds thereof, as the said Association may think necessary for the purposes of the trust and the work of the Association, and for that purpose the Executive, at the request of the Association, are to make and issue such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, as may be thought advisable at such rates of interest, and with such bonuses and additions as may be thought expedient, the power hereby given to extend to and include the raising of money by the sale or pledge of such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements at such rates of discount and upon such terms as may be thought fit. ALL moneys raised under the power hereby given are to be applied for the purposes of the trust and for the work of the said Association, in accordance with the directions of the said Association, but the Executive shall not be bound to take any action involving the expenditure of money unless the necessary money therefor is in their hands. EACH of the Claimants hereby authorizes and empowers the Executive to use his or her name, in all acts, things, writings, deeds, discharges, and other documents whatsoever, and to act for him or her in all matters or things relating to or connected with the trust estate, and for that purpose each of the Claimants hereby appoints the Executive Committee his or her attorneys irrevocable, with full power to appoint a substitute or substitutes from time to time for all or any of the purposes under the direction of the said Association. ALL monies and securities for money received by the Executive, as the proceeds of the trust estate, are to be applied and disposed of as follows: *First*: In the payment and getting in of all bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, made and issued by the Executive for the purpose of raising money upon the security of the trust estate as above provided for; *Second*: In payment of all liabilities, expenses, costs, charges and disbursements, incurred or made in connection with the trust; *Third*: In payment to the said Executive of a commission of 15 per cent. on the receipts for the time, trouble and care in these matters; *Fourth*: The balance to be distributed among such of the Claimants, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, as may, by the judgment or order of the proper Court or tribunal in that behalf, be declared entitled to shares or interests in the said estates, and in such proportions as may be declared or provided by such judgment or order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereto set their hands and seals.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED,)

This Indenture,

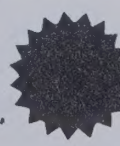
made the

day of _____, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-
whose hands and seals are hereto set and who severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is generally known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, more minutely described as the Widdrington Estate, in Widdrington Parish, Northumberland County; the Tempest Estates, in Durham County, including the Stella, Stanley and Bowland Estates; the Lord Effingham Howard Estate, in County of Durham, known as Corby Castle; the Standish Estate, in the County of York, and the Towneley Estates proper, in the County of Lancashire, known in England and comprehended under the general designation of "The Towneley Estates," hereinafter called the Claimants, of the First Part, and William Northcote Geare, Esquire, Professor S. Vernoy and Sturgeon Stewart, Esquire, all of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, hereinafter called the Executive, who, together with a Board of Trustees and a Board of Directors, as from time to time duly appointed, are collectively designated "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," of the Second Part: WHEREAS, the Claimants severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, as above described, and are desirous of having their claims presented and prosecuted with vigor; And whereas, a large number of persons who severally claim interests or shares in said estates, formed themselves into an association called "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," hereinafter referred to as "The Association," the Head Office of which is at present at No. 21 Yonge Street Arcade, Toronto, the object of such Association being declared to be: "To faithfully, honourably, and with all diligence, prosecute the claims of the "Lawrence-Towneley heirs to the estates now awaiting them." AND WHEREAS, in or about the month of August, A.D. 1885, an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland was passed intituled—"An Act for carrying into effect the division of certain "hereditaments known as the Towneley estate, in the Counties of Lancaster and York, the estate in the Forest of Bowland in "the same counties, and the Stella and Stanley estates, in the County of Durham, and for other purposes." AND WHEREAS, in order that the Claimants' claims may be duly presented and prosecuted with less expense than would be possible were they to be presented and prosecuted individually, and in order that the necessary funds may be raised for the purpose, the Claimants have agreed to transfer their respective claims: NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, that each of the Claimants, in consideration of the signatures by the others to these presents, and in further consideration of the various stipulations herein contained, and of one dollar in cash by them in hand well and truly paid, doth hereby grant, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Association, its administrators and successors, according to the nature thereof, all his or her estate, right, title, interest, claim, share and demand of whatever kind, in, to and out of the estates, lands, tenements, hereditaments, leaseholds, mines, minerals, royalties, monies, chattels, choses in action, and properties of all and every kind, whether real, personal or mixed, which belong to or form part of, or go to make up that which is known or called the "Lawrence-Towneley Estates," including among all others (if any) the estates mentioned or referred to in said Act of the Parliament of Great Britain: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said Association, their heirs, executors, administrators and successors according to the nature thereof Upon Trust to get in, collect, receive and convert into money, the estates, rights, titles, interests, claims, shares and demands hereby granted, assigned, transferred and set over, and to do all acts and things, and sign, seal, execute and deliver all such writings, deeds, discharges and other documents, whatsoever, that may be expedient or necessary in that behalf, and to hold, apply and distribute the monies and proceeds according to the terms hereof. PROVIDED ALWAYS, that the Executive shall in all matters act under the lawful directions and control of the said Association. THE said Association is hereby authorized and empowered to raise such sums of money from time to time upon the security of the trust estate, and the proceeds thereof, as the said Association may think necessary for the purposes of the trust and the work of the Association, and for that purpose the Executive, at the request of the Association, are to make and issue such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, as may be thought advisable at such rates of interest, and with such bonuses and additions as may be thought expedient, the power hereby given to extend to and include the raising of money by the sale or pledge of such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements at such rates of discount and upon such terms as may be thought fit. ALL moneys raised under the power hereby given are to be applied for the purposes of the trust and for the work of the said Association, in accordance with the directions of the said Association, but the Executive shall not be bound to take any action involving the expenditure of money unless the necessary money therefor is in their hands. EACH of the Claimants hereby authorizes and empowers the Executive to use his or her name, in all acts, things, writings, deeds, discharges, and other documents whatsoever, and to act for him or her in all matters or things relating to or connected with the trust estate, and for that purpose each of the Claimants hereby appoints the Executive Committee his or her attorneys irrevocable, with full power to appoint a substitute or substitutes from time to time for all or any of the purposes under the direction of the said Association. ALL monies and securities for money received by the Executive, as ~~the proceeds of the trust estate, are to be applied~~ and disposed of as follows: *First:* In the payment and getting in of all bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, made and issued by the Executive for the purpose of raising money upon the security of the trust estate as above provided for; *Second:* In payment of all liabilities, expenses, costs, charges and disbursements, incurred or made in connection with the trust; *Third:* In payment to the said Executive of a commission of 15 per cent. on the receipts for the time, trouble and care in these matters; *Fourth:* The balance to be distributed among such of the Claimants, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, as may, by the judgment or order of the proper Court or tribunal in that behalf, be declared entitled to shares or interests in the said estates, and in such proportions as may be declared or provided by such judgment or order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereto set their hands and seals.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED,

IN THE PRESENCE OF



Persons writing to make inquiries should
enclose stamp for postage.

Circulars containing full particulars
furnished on application.

LANPHERE & USHER,

AGENCY FOR THE

Prosecution and Recovery of Foreign and American Claims,

No. 9 Murray Street, New York City.

E. O. LANPHERE,
JAMES USHER.

P. J. Lawrence Esq. June 10th 1881

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th duly recd. and
in reply will say we have just completed
negotiations with the son and administrator
of the late Hon D. B. Carter of Albany, N.Y.,
resulting in the transfer of all his fathers
documents researches in the Tacony and
Lawrence Estate to us.

The case is to be immediately investi-
gated, vigorously prosecuted and if con-
victed settled, Counsel being now in England
awaiting the arrival of evidence now in pre-
paration here and who is fully empowered
to obtain all and every information as will
be required to lay claim to your ancestral
Estate and have it applied to its rightful
channel of descent.

For this purpose an association of the Lairs
is now forming here and rapidly filling

up. It is limited to one hundred members at five dollars each and no further amount will be asked.

In case of success, should any member fail to make their claim valid his or her fee will be refunded but all members will have the full benefit of Mr. Carner's researches, which embraces about all the families in the country.

Hoping you will join our association without delay, we remain

Yours &c
Langford & Harker

Mr. T. J. Lawrence
D. C.

9 Murray St. N.Y.
18 Decemr. 82

I propose to print only a limited number of copies for the use of those interested, so please inform me as to the exact number of copies you wish.

I should also be pleased to have you ascertain if other interested persons wish copies, as the book can be obtained by subscription only.

The book's you may choose to order can be sent C. O. D., as soon as published or the amount can now be forwarded.

The book will be quite large as I have about 300 pages of manuscript all told.

I would be pleased to have you send me a list of the names of those you know to be interested in this matter.

Yours truly
James McKim

TO BE OBTAINED ONLY BY SUBSCRIPTION.

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

—OF THE—

TOWNLEY & LAWRENCE CASE,
OF ENGLAND.

I am about to publish in book form the History of the above case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating, for certain parties interested therein, having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case, collected by the late Hon. D. B. CARVER, and others, with which and I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors in London, and now I enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single or combined; and now I have no hesitation whatever in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case, collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

The report is quite lengthy, and for fullness of matter, minuteness of details, and accurate accounts, I believe no book of this character will exceed it.

I therefore propose to have it printed; persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case, can do so, by forwarding to me the sum of \$2 and they will receive a copy of the book, as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, only a limited number will be printed; for the use of those interested in the case, and the book will *only* be sold to subscribers,

Address

JAMES USHER,
9 MURRAY STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

IN PRESS, AND NEARLY READY.

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

—OF THE—

LAWRENCE & TOWNLEY CASE,
OF ENGLAND.

Including the Genealogy of the Family.

I am publishing in book form the History of the above families and case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating for certain parties interested therein; having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case collected by the late Hon. D. B. CARVER, and others who devoted many years of their lives to unearthing records and traditions relating to the families interested in, and connected with, the above-mentioned Estate, with which *and* I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors, in London, and now I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single, or combined; and I have no hesitation whatever, in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

The report is very lengthy, and for fullness of matter, minuteness of details, and accurate accounts, I believe no book of this character will exceed it.

The book, in addition to much other valuable Historical and Genealogical matter, contains also a genealogy of the LAWRENCE FAMILY.

In its preparation, tribute has been laid upon all sources of information. Town, County and State records have been consulted; State, Genealogical, and other Libraries have added to my knowledge. Family and Town histories have yielded up their treasures, family bibles, and the memory of the aged have aided in this work.

This volume will be a treasury of interesting and memorable facts collected from many sources, with much trouble and at no inconsiderable cost.

I therefore propose to have it published. Persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case and also of the history of the family, can do so by forwarding to me the sum of \$2, and they will receive a copy of the book as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, or the book can be sent C. O. D. *Only a limited number of copies will be printed* for the use of those connected with the family and interested in the case, and the book will only be sold to subscribers.

THE WORK WILL BE AN OCTAVO VOLUME. Promptness is the life-blood of every enterprise: will you therefore kindly oblige me with the names and addresses of those you know to be connected with the family, and who are likely to become interested in this work; and the number of copies you desire.

I have also procured portraits and views of the famous Townley Hall of Lancashire; also of Corby Casle of Cumberland, showing a very magnificent edifice picturesquely situated at the head of a large lake, looking over a vast extent of country.

The Editor respectfully appeals to the members of the Family to manifest their approval of this undertaking by giving it the necessary support.

Address

JAMES USHER,
9 Murray Street,
NEW YORK CITY.

Winnebago, August 18th, 1882

Mr. Usher, Dear Sir

I received your correspondence and also your letters and in reply would say according to the by-laws of the association we was not to pay any more than the \$500 and that was to be used for the purpose of commencing suit. That was paid in almost a year ago and nothing has been done as yet, in your letter I have before me dated September 5th, 1881, you said that was positively all the money that would be required of the heirs. You agreed to collect it for ten per cent. If the amount is what you claim it to be, I think that the ten per cent would be worth your while to go ahead and collect it on your own account if I see it all right. If we furnish you money to go to London and you should succeed, you are just ahead so much and we are out so much. I don't understand it. I wish you would explain it to me. I know there is a fortune there for us for it has been handed down for generations and that is why I have been so anxious to see the end of it. You say there is a hundred heirs, ^{new} who are they and where are they. I cannot find anybody but myself. I have been through New York State this summer and failed to find a man or a woman that has signed the constitution. I begin to think there is no such an association, Lawrence and Townley Association. Excuse me for thinking so, for you are a stranger to me and I to you. And one reason for my thinking so is the association has no treasurer, clerk nor president and there has been no meeting of the heirs to my knowledge, and now for me to go ahead, I must know that it is all right and then clear the----(illegible). Business is business and right is right, that is my motto. Please answer. I remain yours

P. J. Lawrence
Winnebago, Illinois
Winnebago County

Winnemago August ^{19th} 1881

Mr. Wishes Peas Sir

I receive your. Case & order
your letter & in reply would
say according to the By laws of
the association we was elect to
pay Eng. Moore than the (Sve) &
that was to be used for the
purpose of Commencing suit
that was payed in almost
a year ago & nothing done
as yet in your letter I have

Preferred Inc. Date Sept = ^{5th} 1881

^{you say} that it was positively all the

money that would be required
of the heirs you agree to collect it
for ten per cent, if the amount
is what you claim it is to be
I think that the ten per cent

would be worth your while
to go a heap & collect it on your
own account - if you see it a right
if we give you money to go to
(London) & you should succeed &
get the picture you are just
a heap the better & we are out too
much of ~~it~~ don't understand
I wish you would explain it to
me I know that is a picture that
has us for it has been hence
down for generations & that is
why I have been so anxious
to see the ^{of it} and you say that is a
hundred heirs who are they & who
are they I cannot give any body
but myself I have been through
York State this summer & I
hope a man or woman that
has signed the Constitution &
begin to think that is such an
association & I association
Expense we are thinking so

you are a stranger to me & to
you & are reason for my thinking
So is the association has a
Herbert Recipient & there has
been meeting of the heirs to my
knowledge & also for me to go a
heap I must know that it is
all right & then I leave the
fact Success is known & I
right is right - that is my
Matter clear as day I remain
Yours &c

P. J. Lawrence

Minneapolis, Minnesota

P. J. Lawrence Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your kind favor came to hand and in reply would say that I wish it to be clearly understood that I have no desire to influence any party or parties to subscribe to this fund against their own free will. I have already spent over \$500 of my own personal funds but I do not complain, knowing full well that if success attends our efforts I will be amply repaid.

It is our intention as soon as we obtain a statement under the seal of the Lord Chancery to call a public meeting of the various heirs deciding upon some plan that would seem advisable and I believe that you will agree with me that it will be best to obtain that statement before so doing. I have never felt to hesitate a moment to furnish you with any and all information and did not realize that I had either directly or indirectly expressed anything of the kind. Let me know to what you refer and if this is all that keeps you from taking an active part in the matter doubtless all can be made satisfactory.

When you came East I much regret that you did not call on us as I think I could be able to satisfy you readily as a full list of members is at my office.

Please write me your views about the matter and obligely yours,

James Usher

No. 9 Murray str.

New York City

August 24th, 1882

P. J. Lawrence Esq
Dear Sir:

Your kind favor came to hand and in reply would say that I wish it to be clearly understood that I have no desire to influence any party or parties to subscribe to this fund against their own free will.

I have already spent over \$500 of my own personal funds; but I do not complain, knowing full well that if success attends our efforts I will be amply repaid.

It is our intention as soon as possible to obtain a statement under the seal of the Lord Chancellor to call a public meeting of the various lords deciding upon some plan that would seem advisable and I believe that you will agree with me that it will be best to obtain that statement before so doing.

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When you came East I much
regret that you did ^{not} call on me
so I think I could be able to
satisfy you readily as a full
list of members is at my office.

Please write me your
views about the matter and
oblige yourself
James Coker

709 Broadway St
New York City
Care of Mr. H. H. H.

ESTABLISHED IN 1867.

UNCLAIMED MONEY AND PROPERTY.

Although not generally known, the amount of money and property left by persons dying intestate or without any direct known issue in England exceeds "two hundred million pounds sterling," and vast estates lying unclaimed in Great Britain, and its dependencies, exclusive of many estates, and properties held by those not entitled thereto.

From the days of Oliver Cromwell to the present date, a period of over three centuries, the properties of persons dying intestate in England, Scotland and Ireland, have been accumulating in chancery, awaiting the appearance of the legal heirs thereto. The amount at this date with the compound interest is so enormous that it seems almost incredible.

It is well known that many of these missing heirs are scattered throughout the United States and Canada, and could they be apprised of their good fortune would deem it no trouble to relieve the Court of Chancery of the inconvenience of caring for their interests.

Unquestionably a large proportion of this unclaimed money and property belongs to poor and obscure parties. The reason so large an amount has accumulated, and remains years and years without claimants, is that this unclaimed money and property belongs in large part to persons who feel doubtful of their ability to establish what are in reality just claims. Then again, much of this money and property is in the hands of the British Government, and to most persons it seems too formidable a proceeding even to attempt to establish their claims. It is, however, an established fact that most of this money is held simply as a "trust," and subject to the demand of the rightful heirs, and the courts are quite willing to grant orders for it to be delivered to rightful owners, where reasonable evidence is furnished as to the rights of claimants.

I find that in many instances claims have been put into the hands of first-class attorneys, who had no means of expeditiously prosecuting such cases, and the weariness of long delays and inattention has ended in a hopeless abandonment of fortunes to which claimants were justly entitled. These properties and funds can be readily recovered by the next of kin, heirs at law, or their legal representatives, without any unnecessary delay, provided their claims are instituted by persons experienced in conducting such matters, and who combine tact and resolution in prosecuting such claims.

The nominal charges made by me do not in any way recompense for the trouble and outlay incurred in investigating and proving claimants' title, but it is to my ultimate success in obtaining money or property for parties entitled to them that I look for my remuneration, that remuneration being a rate of commission to be agreed upon between the parties and myself, and to be paid after the property has been recovered.

Although I do not for a moment venture to attempt impossibilities I will give my best attention to any tangible and genuine matter entrusted to my supervision, and acting in concert with many gentlemen of great experience and high standing, both in this country and England, and having correspondence in the chief cities in Europe, I am in a position to obtain reliable information speedily and at small cost, my custom being to require payment for actual disbursements for the investigation of claims, and with this exception the claimants will be at no expense in connection with the matter, for if it appears, after a thorough investigation, that there is a reasonable chance to succeed in the case, I will prosecute it at my own risk for a commission of whatever amount I may recover.

Pedigrees and family genealogies compiled, and certificates of birth, marriage, and death obtained to verify the same; searches made for wills, letters of administration, deeds, etc.; official copies obtained from all parts of the world through responsible agents.

This agency has become a most convenient and reliable source of information, as many have through us secured large sums of money due them, I make a specialty of this claim business, and have an unusually large and well-arranged amount of information appertaining thereto, and would be pleased to hear from all persons who believe themselves entitled to money and property. Such persons are cautioned against entrusting their affairs in the hands of any one unqualified to conduct matters of such importance. "Unequalled facilities and highest reference."

*A Register containing the Address,
names & descriptions of over
two persons who have been
advertised for to claim money
property will be sent you on
receipt of 25 cents in postage
thereon.*

JAMES USHER,

Law and Collection Offices,

No. 9 MURRAY STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

LANPHERE'S AGENCY,

For Establishing and Collecting Foreign and American Claims.

There are a great number of persons legally entitled to large sums of money, in this and in Foreign Countries, who have not the slightest idea what steps to take, or who can successfully aid and direct them in securing their rights.

There are thousands of men and women entitled to fortunes, who feel that death and the lapse of time, stand as nearly or quite insurmountable difficulties between them and their claims. In many instances these claims have been put into the hands of first-class attorneys who had no means of expeditiously prosecuting such cases, and the weariness of long delays and inattention has ended in a hopeless abandonment of fortunes to which claimants were justly entitled.

We make this Business a Speciality. With our facilities, secured at a large expense, for tracing out Genealogies, and Family Pedigrees together with the original Coats-of-Arms.

We can hardly fail to meet with success in looking up and securing well-founded claims, no matter how intricate they may appear, from distances and the expiration of many long years.

We find in our records of unclaimed property many thousand names. We are prepared to furnish you information concerning any claim, without long and tedious delay.

We have had the satisfaction of knowing that large numbers of persons are provided with a competency for life who had felt that their claims were wholly beyond their reach, by reason of legal complications.

We have spared no pains or trouble to prepare ourselves to meet every possible emergency that may arise in our business, and we feel and do not hesitate to assure you, that if you have a just claim we have every means for searching it out and securing for you your rights in the shortest possible time.

Should you desire it we will, for an interest in the claim, prosecute and collect it at our own expense, charging you only a small fee for a preliminary examination as to the validity and probable chance of securing the claim you desire us to obtain.

We have published a book containing much valuable information, together with rulings and decisions, some names wanted, with cases that are interesting and instructive, as well as amusing, showing how many curious circumstances and trifling things become important in our lives, which we will mail, post paid, for 25 cents, (about cost of publishing,) in postage stamps or cash to any address desired.

Communications are particularly invited from all persons knowing or supposing themselves to be entitled to property within the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland.

Our preliminary charges are as follows: For furnishing information as to whether your family name appears, and in connection with what class of claim.....\$1.00

For furnishing copy of advertisement with date thereof.....\$3.00

For searching and furnishing extracts from our records, &c., &c, with brief opinion as to the probability of your claim.....\$5.00

For full investigation of our records, and such comparison and examination of records and documents which you may be able to furnish, as will satisfy us concerning the correctness and justice of your claim.....\$15.00

Forward by Draft, Post Office Order, Registered Letter or Express all fees and important papers.

Letters of inquiry answered without charge where stamps for postage are enclosed.

Address

LANPHERE'S AGENCY,

9 MURRAY STREET,

NEW YORK CITY.

P. J. Lawrence Esq
Sir

Yours to hand.

In our opinion we think certain
that there is sufficient encourage-
ment in the matter to warrant
the publication of the article & have
every reason to expect a satisfactory
termination. If you find that you
are unable to influence its publica-
tion please return the same to us
as soon as convenient

Yours
James Usher
Stephen Usher

#9 Murray St
New York City
March 4th 1882

IN PRESS, AND NEARLY READY.
A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

LAWRENCE & TOWNLEY CASE,
OF ENGLAND.

Including the Genealogy of the Family.

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JAMES USHER,
9 Murray Street,
NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK CITY.

MURRAY STREET, 6

JAMES USHER,

Address

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OF ENGLAND.

TOWNLEY LAWRENCE CASE,

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

TO BE OBTAINED ONLY BY SUBSCRIPTION.

Grand Rapids Mich

Jan 24th 1895

Dear Community Delegates - Mrs Ector
& Mrs Taylor returned from Toronto
& all is right - I will explain further
at another time all I explained &
the standing of the men is good
their will doubtless be a general
fall in the same pattern for a
meeting in Detroit & the Toronto
Pact will be their asking all
to take a part in a suspension
of the Central doctd association &
election of officers & agreeing for incorpo-
ration & Campbell - Legal Association
the Act I am & all right Emphatically
Mrs Jones will ^{help} ~~be there~~ with it & I
manly excuse me for this time

MRS J C McLean

Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 24, 1885

Our committee delegates, Mr. Eaton and Mr. Dufea returned from Toronto and all is right- Will explain further at another time. All is explained and the standing of the men is good. There will doubtless be a general meeting in Detroit and the Toronto parties will be there asking all to a part in the re-organization of the consolidated association and election of officers and assuring for -----(?) and complete legal association. The ----(?) seem all right. Emphatically Mr. Geare will be here with it next Monday. Excuse for hastening

Mrs. S. E. Walton

1882

Jan 4 Windsor Henry
county Mo

Mr P J Lawrence
Dear Sir your favor of
Dec 30 is just Received and
in Regard to your inquiry in
regard to my ancestors I would
just say that I am the young^{est}
of our family and my Parents
Both Died when I was quite
young that I can not give you
as full a history as some
of the older ones of the family
My Father's name was Simeon
he was Borne in 1779 in the
State of Connecticut in the town
of Canaan and was Married in
Hartford in 1804 and moved from
the town of Schuectady to Meigs
county Ohio about the year

1818 or 19 My Grand Fathers
name was John he was ~~an~~ an -
English man and Died in the
State of Massachusetts and was
Buried in Berkshire County my
Father had four or five Brothers
I do not know all their names
they all lived in the State of
New York I have lost all trace
of them have not heard from
them for over forty years one
of them was named Lewis one ^{iel} Van
one all one Philomel one Aseph
my Great grand fathers name
I do not know If you wish for
a fuller history my eldest Brother
is still living in Meigs County
Ohio and I can give you a
more correct history his Post
office is Portland now If
you will be so kind as
to give me a history of your
ancesters I will esteem it as a

great favor and any further
in formation I shall
I shall be glad to furnish if
in my possession

Yours (very
Respectfully

Simeon Lawrence

P.S. My Brother's name
is Henry S Lawrence

Letter to Porter Jewett Lawrence from Simeon Lawrence, January 4th, 1882

Mr. P. J. Lawrence

Dear Sir: Your favor of December 30th (1881) is just received and in regard to your inquiry in regard to my ancestors, I would just say that I am the youngest of our family and my parents both died when I was quite young that I cannot give you as full a history as some of the older ones of the family.

My father's name was Simeon. He was borne in 1779 in the State of Connecticut in the town of Canaan and was married in Hartford in 1804 and moved from the town of Schenectady (N.Y.) to Meigs County, Ohio about the year 1818-1819. My grandfather's name was John. He was an Englishman and died in the State of Massachusetts and was buried in Berkshire County. My father had four or five brothers. I do not know all their names. They all lived in the State of New York. I have lost all trace of them (and) have not heard from them for over forty years. One of them was named Lewis, one Daniel, one Ace, one Philomel, and one A-eph(?). My great grandfather's name I do not know. If you wish for a fuller history my oldest brother is still living in Meigs County, Ohio and can give you a more correct history. His post office is Portland. Now if you will be so kind as to give me a history of your ancestors I will esteem it as a great favor and any further information I shall be glad to furnish if in my possession.

Yours very Respectfully

Simeon Lawrence

P.S. My brother's name is Henry S. Lawrence.

LOOKING FOR LUCRE.

The American "Heirs" Will Move on Their English Estates.

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY-CHASE CLAIMANTS WILL SEND S. H. BLAKE TO ENGLAND.

One hundred Lawrence-Townley-Chase heirs of various degrees of consanguinity and from divers points of the continent, from Quebec to San Diego, were present at Fraternity Hall yesterday morning when the international convention proper of the heirs began. Mayor G. W. Ostrem, of Trenton, Ont., was chosen Chairman of the meeting, and L. E. Farrar, of Fort Gratiot, and F. R. Chase, of San Diego, Cal., Secretaries.

Chairman Ostrem said that all present seemed to be united on the general fact that a Townley estate existed, now being enjoyed by certain parties. Certain persons in America claimed a better right to enjoy the estates. And it was desired to secure united effort to investigate the matter. He himself knew how futile it was to attempt to investigate the matter without the aid of both good American and English lawyers as he had once looked up an estate in England.

W. Northcote Gears, of Toronto, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association, gave a somewhat elaborate story of the origin of the estates and the line of descent from John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III. But the heirs did not appear very deeply interested therein. He argued that the English possessors had used every means in their power to discomfit the American heirs, and told of mutilated records. He produced a huge Bible, which was given by Thomas Lawrence to his brother John Lawrence, Mary Townley's husband and ancestor of a great majority of the claimants. The family record had been cut out of this volume. He also showed a smaller Bible, now owned by Dr. Upjohn, of Hastings, that did contain important family records. Some person had attempted to tear the record out of this, but they had only torn out Revelations, getting the book wrong end to.

Sturgeon Stewart, the dapper and intelligent Secretary of the Association, said the Townley estate proper was between Manchester and Burnley and now had a rental of \$800,000 per annum. This was but a small portion of the contested property. The purpose of the meeting to-day was to so unite as to push to a successful issue the work that the Consolidated Association had been engaged in for ten months. This could only be done by grand, harmonious, united effort.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, urged procedure to business. How were the heirs to prove descent if there was an estate? How was the money for investigation to be raised? How much would it take? What was to be done with it?

Adjournment for dinner was had. The forenoon session had been very unsatisfactory and the expectant heirs did not conceal their displeasure; but the officers arranged an afternoon programme of decided interest. The attendance had slightly increased when the body reconvened. The Chair promptly introduced L. O. Hall, an attorney of Canandaigua, N. Y. He said that he was not the attorney of any of the Townley Association or a claimant of the estate, and appeared on the platform by conscription, not as a volunteer. He would say as a lawyer, as all lawyers must say, that the Parliamentary act of August, 1885, neither strengthened nor weakened any claim the American heirs might have in the estates. It is simply an act passed by consent of certain persons. It affects none others than those and says so plainly. Forty persons are barred by consent. The first of these is the Earl of Abingdon. None but these are barred. And there is a saving clause that so specifies distinctly. The act provides for the government of the estate for 3,000 years by trustees, and orders the raising at once by rentals of say \$1,500,000 to pay the claimants who have consented to be barred. If you people ever had any claim you have it yet. But there should be unity of claimants. You must get business in shape if you desire to do anything. There ought to be no clashing. And if I were a Townley heir I would be willing to spend some money to settle this matter once for all. There are two courses—one to go there to start an action immediately; the other to send men there to give faithful investigation to it. Considerable expense would be attached to that. It would be well to set at it early for if the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the Crown, con-

the Antislavery House parlors at which miscellaneous matters were discussed. Among other things Secretary Stewart presented London solicitors' opinions to the effect that the case of the Lawrence-Townley claimants was a good one and that "if their pedigree was all right they should have no difficulty in obtaining the estates, for the late act was for the express object of permitting a deviation from the laws of inheritance and rendering a division feasible. * * *

It plainly appears from the act that persons not direct heirs of Mary Townley, to whom the property, or a large portion of it descends by wills, settlements, etc., but descendants of uncles, cousins, aunts and what not, are receiving part of the income in the absence of the true heirs."

There was some discussion as to the division in event of winning the fabled millions. It was generally conceded that the division should be that if any of the lines of heirs won the estate all who could prove relationship, whether in the direct line or not, should have an equal portion.

This manner of proposition will probably finally be drawn up and signed by the officers of the principal and auxiliary associations.

At a late hour the "heirs" separated and the international convention was over.

Edgar Weeks, the original attorney of the Michigan association, gives the proceedings of the convention his approval. He says it is an intelligent way to go at the problem. Mr. Weeks sat in the body of the hall yesterday and put in a great deal of time poring over the voluminous Townley act.

Col. E. H. Sellers sat in the convention as attorney of some Detroit heirs.

The three Canadian trustees who have been deputed to report on the hearings of the property in question, are among the front rank of Canadian citizens. S. H. Blake is an ex-Vice-Chancellor of Ontario, and head of one of the most prominent legal firms in the Province. Erastus Wyman is a wealthy Canadian who made his fortune in New York. He is a director of the Western Union Telegraph Company and President of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company of Canada. W. H. Howland is Mayor of Toronto.

July 28th 1883
DETROIT FREE PRESS.

A FABULOUS FORTUNE.

Michigan People Who Will Inherit \$100,000,000.

Edgar Weeks, the lawyer, is engaged in the work of looking up the branches to a family tree of an old English house starting from the parent trunk sometime in the seventeenth century. The object of his search is to prove the descent of a number of people in Michigan and Canada from John Lawrence and Mary Townley. If the relationship can be established, a fortune amounting to about \$20,000,000 will come into their hands.

Among the supposed heirs are Mrs. D. V. Bell, Mrs. F. H. Seymour and Mrs. Phebe Massecar, of Detroit, Mrs. John W. Squires, of Grand Rapids, Mrs. E. Merrifield, of Lansing, Mrs. Lydia M. Wright, of Memphis, and Mrs. Almira M. Zimmerman, of North Branch. Of their descent from John Lawrence they have no doubt, but owing to the two centuries that have elapsed since the marriage of their wealthy ancestors the legal proof is difficult to obtain.

In 1827 the vast estate was adjudged to belong to the descendants of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, and an advertisement to that effect was published in the official paper of the English Government. Since that time numerous advertisements have appeared in the English papers for the heirs and several meetings have been held in the United States and Canada of persons claiming to be the descendants.

In 1690 John Lawrence, second officer of H. M. S. Highflyer, married Mary Townley, being obliged to elope on account of difference of religion. Their marriage took place at the Hague. After ineffectual attempts to bring about a reconciliation with their parents the husband and wife returned to the Hague, where they lived till 1713. In that year they came America, finally settling in Walpole, Mass., in 1733. There is but one family of Lawrences that are descended from John Lawrence and Mary Townley. This family is descended from Joseph the third son. The heirs in this State are of the fourth and fifth generation.

Mr. Weeks has collected a vast amount of proofs, the major portion being church and family records, deeds and wills, dating back for a century and a half. He also has an agent in England at work on the case. Genealogical records have been compiled giving the line of Townleys from 1560 to 1813, at which time the male line of the Townleys became extinct.

But few links in the chain are missing, and Mr. Weeks is confident that these will be supplied and that his clients will obtain a large share of the fabulous fortune now in the Bank of England.

Continued on the back of this sheet

set at it early for the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the Crown, confirmed by another act of Parliament, that would settle the estate forever.

Mayor Ostrom introduced Hon. Samuel H. Blake, of Toronto, ex-Vice Chancellor of Ontario. Mr. Blake has a massive peculiarly English face. He is a strong and logical speaker. While he gave free expression to both sides of the problem of the fortune his lucid ideas inserted a noticeable amount of backbone into the subsequent proceedings. He said: "If you have an estate in England you want to know it. There are two or three points immaterial in this connection. The value of the estate, if of no importance. It is conceded to be worth \$15,000,000. Complete tracing of genealogy is unimportant until the existence of the estate is demonstrated. If you were promised Paradise would you first trace your genealogy to Adam or find out if the promiser could give you Paradise? Then that act of Parliament, you get nothing and lose nothing by it. Throwing these aside is there not a question that interests all heirs at the threshold of this whole matter? Erastus Wyman and W. H. Howland—and these are well-known names in Canada—will act with myself in finally reporting on investigation. I have advised the Toronto Association to send some one to England to visit Yorkshire and Lancashire and ascertain how the estate stands, then to submit the facts about the estate to two leading counselors of London and ask their opinion as to whether the statute of limitations bars American claimants. This is the advice I should give in a simple ejectment suit. If favorable opinions are received, then suit might be commenced, with all American heirs as common claimants. They might be incorporated as an Association for Reclaiming the Townley Estates. It was a vast matter to open, but what would be a heavy expense to one would be light, distributed among many people.

"The possibility that the American claims are still alive comes because the statute of limitations may not run in favor of trustees to the exclusion of claimants. You should waste no more intelligence, time and money. Prepare to grasp at this matter now, to find out what there is to it, or abandon its pursuit and engage in other affairs. Mr. Gear has asked me to go to England and begin investigation. Other business calls me there the 1st of February. I could place the matter in the hands of Bishop, Pompous, Fox & Co., leading and most reliable London barristers. But I could not do this without depositing money for their work. Three thousand dollars ought to pay for the investigation. Opinions expressed by me as to the probable failure or success of the heirs would be equally wrong. The success of a case depends on facts. There is no hopes of success unless the facts are obtained."

Mr. Blake answered a great many questions, but declined to express opinions on the outcome. However, when he had done a sharp-featured male delegate arose in the rear end of the room and asked: "How soon will we get our money?" replied that the preliminary investigation

was conjecture. The convention, after some discussion, proceeded to business. The following was adopted:

Resolved. That in view of the eminently satisfactory, clear and definite statements and views of the various speakers at this convention of the Lawrence-Chase-Townley claimants, it is hereby resolved that in the opinion of this convention a united effort should be made at once, and once for all, to ascertain the position of the estate and moneys claimed by the Lawrence-Chase-Townley heirs.

D. B. Richardson, of Millington, attorney for a group of heirs in Tuscola County, offered the following which were also adopted:

Resolved. That the officers of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association of Toronto be instructed to proceed immediately to a preliminary investigation of the Lawrence, Townley and Chase estates in England, and establish: First, is there such an estate to be inherited? Second, does the statute of limitations bar the claimants in America and England from obtaining said estate?

Resolved. That the expense of said investigation be borne by voluntary contributions from all claimants in the United States and Canada, said contribution to be collected before said investigation is commenced and as soon as possible.

Mrs. L. E. Welton, of Grand Rapids, supported by N. L. Eaton, of Cleveland, offered the following:

Resolved. That in order to carry out the spirit of the resolution just passed this meeting pledges itself through the various associations and parties interested to raise a sum of money not exceeding \$5,000 at once in order to make the necessary investigation and procure from sources in England a report on the question of the position of these estates.

This was adopted unanimously and followed by one designating S. H. Blake as the person to carry on the investigation. He expressed thanks.

Considerable money and a number of pledges were raised in the audience. The Belleville Association delegates announced that they had raised \$500, which they were ready to contribute.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, was named as the person through whom the local funds should pass as Treasurer to the proper parties at Toronto.

Adjourned sine die.
Last evening there was an informal meeting at

THE CHASE-TOWNLEY HEIRS

FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH A VIEW TO GETTING MILLIONS FROM ENGLAND

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 2.—[Special.]—The commission of the Chase-Townley heirs was called to order this morning at 11 o'clock. It was stated that Col. Start of Halifax was on the way with an official copy of papers relative to the Chase estate.

Mr. J. W. Patton introduced a resolution providing for the appointment of a general Executive Committee with power to call a national convention whenever deemed necessary and to prosecute the investigation of the English records in the interests of the Chase heirs. The committee is authorized to employ a reputable attorney to assist it in its researches, should it be deemed advisable to do so. Mr. Patton stated that it would be the object of the committee to ascertain first if there is such an estate as the Chase-Townley estate, and second, if it is possible for the American heirs and descendants of Robert Chase to obtain their share thereof.

On motion of Mr. P. S. Tarver the following committee was appointed to consider the resolution: G. W. Patton, P. S. Tarver, A. H. Chas. O. Rice, A. Healy, G. G. Sharkey, and C. Kennedy. The convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock the committee appointed to consider the Patton resolution reported favorably upon it, with the addition that the Executive Committee shall consist of two representatives from each State. The report was adopted.

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HEIR TO A MILLION.

A St. Louisman Entitled to a Portion of the Great Townley Estate.

[St. Louis telegram.]

The Liverpool Weekly Post of recent date announces that by an act of Parliament, passed August 4, the British Government has decided to pay over to all the legal heirs of the Lawrence Townley estate their proper portion of the money.

This estate amounts to the enormous sum of \$800,000,000 in money and 400,000 acres of land. The estate would have been divided thirty-four years ago, but through the false claim of one lady, it was thrown into chancery, where it remained twenty-six years. The estate was inherited by four brothers of the Chase family, three of whom—William, Aquila, and Thomas—came to America number about 800. Many of them are supposed to reside in Missouri. One of those who have put in claims is L. T. Austin, of No. 234 East Street, South St. Louis. He will be entitled to several million dollars when the estate is settled.

Mr. Austin says that a number of the other heirs who have not put in their claims are supposed to be residents of St. Louis. Mr. Stein's grandfather prosecuted the claim in 1846, but died at the advanced age of 100 years, while it was still in litigation.

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THE TOWNLEY ESTATE.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—[Special.]—The heirs of the Chase-Townley estate at the late day was introduced by the following claim: Interest in that \$800,000,000 estate; W. Austin, St. Louis; M. A. Barnett, St. Louis; H. Wallace, Kansas; J. C. Huston, Kansas; N. H. Gentry, Boone, Iowa; Mrs. J. Terre Haute, Ind.; E. Healy, Louisville, Ky.; Andrew Whisman, Terre Haute, E. H. Long Prairie, Ill.; L. R. Chase, Kansas; G. W. Van Buren, Victoria, Ill.; Walter, Nebraska; J. D. Baker, Ottumwa, Iowa; Ward, British, Ill.; Joseph Born, Ash-land, Mo.; C. H. Hines, Burlington, Ill.; L. H. Hanes, Ill.; S. W. Chase, Winfield, Kan.; L. K. Kerkville, Mo.; W. B. Cole, Lake City, Mo.; W. Dewitt, Clinton, Mo.; F. W. Porter, Ill.; J. Roseme, Chillicothe, Mo.; P. Jackson, Tenn.; William Kennedy, Iowa; J. H. Sake, Bonaparte, Iowa; G. Pondag, Iowa. The following were officers: W. J. Austin, president; O. C. Meyers, and M. S. Barnett, treasurer. An adjournment will be held to-morrow.

RAILWAY NOTES.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—The managers of the Central Association are voting by telegraph for the place of holding the next year's annual meeting. The vote is divided between New York and St. Louis.

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AFTER \$800,000,000.

THE CLAIMANTS OF THE CHASE-TOWNLEY ESTATE ORGANIZE AND WILL TRY TO GET THE PROPERTY FROM THE ENGLISH CROWN.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—[Special.]—The heirs and claimants of the famous Chase-Townley estate in chancery in England, valued at \$800,000,000, assembled in convention at the Laclede Hotel today. The property was the accumulation of Sir Richard Townley, and reverted to the Crown in the latter part of the sixteenth century, when its possessor was executed for high treason. Subsequently it was released and transferred to Robert Chase, nearest living relative. Robert Chase had four sons, three of whom emigrated to America prior to the transfer of the estate to their father. On the death of the father, it is claimed, the estate fell to one son, named Robert, and the three who settled in Massachusetts were never notified. On the death of Robert it again reverted to the crown, and has been held until now for claimants. The following heirs signed the convention-roll here today:

J. W. Austin and F. W. Townley, Benton, Tex.; C. M. Wood, Chicago; W. A. Howett, Hillsboro, Ill.; C. E. White, Moline, Ill.; J. C. Shanks, Portland, Ia.; D. A. Chase, Brighton, Ill.; H. Wier, Carlinville, Ill.; W. A. McCallum, Bruerville, Ill.; F. W. Sibley, Barracks, Mo.; Orange Rice, Grappe, Ind.; L. T. Austin, St. Louis; M. S. Barnett, St. Louis; C. H. Wallace, Kirwin, Kas.; J. C. Huston, Walnut, Kas.; N. H. Capron, Boone, Ia.; Mrs. J. H. Briggs, Terre Haute, Ind.; E. Healy, Earlsville, Ia.; Mrs. Andrew Wiseman, Terre Haute, Ind.; E. H. Chase, Long Prairie, Ill.; L. R. Chase, Fort Dodge, Ia.; G. W. Van Buren, Victoria, Ill.; A. T. Aterburn, Plattsburg, Mo.; Jonathan Chase, Weeping Water, Neb.; J. D. Baker, Ottumwa, Ia.; J. G. Willard, Brighton, Ill.; J. Osborn, Ashley, Ill.; O. C. Hicks, Bushnell, Ill.; L. H. Hauss, Woodlawn, Ill.; S. W. Chase, Winfield, Kas.; J. W. Chase, Kirksville, Mo.; W. D. Cole, Lake Crystal, Minn.; M. W. DeWitt, Clinton, Mo.; F. C. Chase, Peoria, Ill.; J. Boscame, Chilpewa, Mo.; L. T. Krap, Jackson, Tenn.; William Kennedy, Des Moines, Ia.; J. R. Sage, Bonaparte, Ia.; G. W. Patton, Pontiac, Ia.

The convention organized, appointed committees, and will make arrangements to secure the estate.

A Pretty Plum to Get.

MARCH 14.

In the telegraphic columns of Wednesday's REGISTER appeared an article relative to the partial settlement of the long disputed estate of Lord Townley of England, valued at \$100,000,000. Of this amount \$40,000,000 has been handed over to relatives in New York State. It appears that Lord Townley had a willful little daughter, who married an honorable Englishman of good but poor family, contrary to her sire's desires and consequently was cut off without a shilling. On the death of the Lord no heirs being at hand the large estate passed into the control of the government. In the meantime the gritty daughter, who had married John Lawrence, came to New York. They became the ancestors of a long line of descendants. Among others are three Rockfordites who came in the direct line of Lawrences. They are Mrs. L. M. West, Mrs. Henry Peers and Mrs. Nancy Brown, all sisters and all Lawrences before marriage. They came direct from the line of descendants of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence. The branch of the house of which the Rockfordites are members, have been laboring some years to establish their claim to a share of the property and their attorneys say that the prospects are very good. In case a few millions fall to their branch of the house, the Rockford claimants would come in for a plump plum apiece.

The Lawrence-Towneley Estate.

Editor World: Permit us to say a few words in reply to some statements made by U. S. Minister Phelps, a gentleman of strict integrity and honesty of purpose, which are being extensively circulated through the press in Canada and the United States.

Mr. Phelps states that there is no money in the bank of England belonging to the Lawrence-Towneley estate, or to any claimants under either.

Replying to this we may say the Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley association does not claim that there is any large amount of money in the bank of England for the Lawrence-Towneley or Chase-Towneley claimants, for though we have reason to believe there was, it has probably been gobbled up by the present usurping claimants who are now and have been for years wrongfully receiving the revenues of those estates.

Mr. Phelps again states there is no such estate in England as the Lawrence-Towneley estate, nor any family of that designation.

No one with any great knowledge of the matter has ever claimed that there was a Lawrence-Towneley estate in England, nor has it been claimed that there is a family of that designation in England. There is, however, a Towneley estate in England, to which the Lawrence-Towneley and Chase-Towneley families of America claim to be entitled, and justly so; of which fact we have incontrovertible evidence in our possession which we can show any person who will call at the office of our association, 21 Yonge street arcade, Toronto. We have a copy of the act of the parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed Aug. 4, 1885, intitled "The Towneley Estates Act," defined as follows: An act for carrying into effect the division of certain hereditaments known as the Towneley estates in the counties of Lancaster and York, the estate in the forest of Bowland and the Stella and Stanley estates in the county of Durham, and for other purposes, 48 and 49 Victoria, session 1885.

The estate is not in possession of any one at the present time, but is held by several trustees in the interests of the true heirs. The names of the trustees as given in the said act, as follows: Sir Nicholas William George Throckmorton, Sir George Russell and Henry Riversdale Grenfell for the Towneley estate; and for the Bowland and Stella estates, Edward Henry Petre, Henry Stourton Arnold, William White and Samuel Bircham. These trustees appear to have certain powers over the income of these estates, and are paying the greater portion of it to certain parties, who, by long occupation in the absence of the true heirs, have gradually become recognized as the owners, but who have no

THE CHASE-TOWNLEY HEIRS.

Claimants of Estates in England Worth \$800,000,000 Assemble in St. Louis. Special Telegram to The Inter Ocean.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 30.—About fifteen representatives of the 800 American heirs to the celebrated Chase-Townley estate in England are at the Laclede Hotel, and this afternoon held an informal meeting preliminary to the convention of the heirs tomorrow, at which it is thought that nearly a hundred people will be present. The object of the convention is given in the following circular in response to which the heirs are present:

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 12.—To the Chase Heirs: The British Parliament having passed an act Aug. 4, 1885, providing for the distribution of the Chase-Townley estate (estimated at \$800,000,000), to the legal heirs who may prove their claims within a limited time, the prompt and united action of all descendants of William, Thomas, and Aquila Chase becomes necessary. For the purpose of forming a Chase association in the West and for such action as may be deemed advisable, a convention of those interested will be held at the Laclede Hotel, St. Louis, at 1 o'clock p. m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1885. All who can possibly attend are urgently requested to be present. Those unable to attend the convention are requested to send copies of any records or documents they may have bearing on the case.

Preliminary committee: L. T. Austin, E. M. Snappington, E. D. Thorne, M. S. Barnett, E. D. Thorne, corresponding secretary, No. 105 North Channing avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

The story to which these heirs pin their hope of getting this \$800,000,000 begins in 1747, when Charles Stuart, the pretender, invaded England; Sir William Townley, an Englishman of wealth, joined him at Manchester, and was taken prisoner at the fatal battle of Bannockburn, executed for high treason, and his estate confiscated. Afterward, in 1844, they were released from confiscation by Lord Brougham and reverted to his family, but as he had no children they went to the heirs of his grandfather, Sir Robert Chase. Sir Robert had four sons, one of whom, Richard, lived and died in England, while the other three—William, Thomas, and Aquila—came to America and settled in Yarmouth, Haverhill, and Newburyport, Mass. When Lord Brougham restored the estate to the heirs he decided that each of the brothers should have one-fourth. The heirs of Richard got their share, but those of Thomas, William and Aquila have not been able yet to obtain restitution. So they believe they have a good case against the British Government.

"I don't believe, myself, that one dollar of this money will ever come to America," said Joseph N. Briggs, of Terre Haute, to-day, whose wife is one of the heirs. "Just think of it—\$800,000,000! I don't believe the English Government will ever allow that much money to leave the country. But we've got a good case, and we intend to fight for it."

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

Looking for Lucre

The American Heirs Will Move on Their English Estates

The Lawrence-Townley-Chase Claimants Will Send S. H. Blake to England

One hundred Lawrence-Townley-Chase heirs of various degrees of consanguinity and from diverse points of the continent, from Quebec to San Diego, were present at Fraternity Hall yesterday morning when the international convention proper of the heirs began. Mayor G. W. Ostrem of Trenton, Ontario, was chosen chairman of the meeting and L. E. Farrar, of Fort Gratiot, and F. R. Chase, of San Diego, California Secretaries.

Chairman Ostrem said that all present seemed to be united on the general fact that a Townley estate existed, now being enjoyed by certain parties. Certain persons in America claimed a better right to enjoy the estates. And it was desired to secure united effort to investigate the matter. He himself knew how futile it was to attempt to investigate the matter without the aid of both good American and English lawyers as he had once looked up an estate in England. W. Northcote Geare of Toronto, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association, gave a somewhat elaborate story of the origin of the estates and the line of descent from John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III. But the heirs did not appear very deeply interested therein. He argued that the English possessors had used every means in their power to discomfit the American heirs, and told of mutilated records. He produced a huge Bible which was given by Thomas Lawrence to his brother John Lawrence, Mary Townley's husband and ancestor of a great majority of the claimants. The family record had been cut out of this volume. He also showed a small Bible, now owned by Dr. Upjohn of Hastings, that did contain important family records. Some person had attempted to tear the record out of this but they had only torn out Revelations, getting the book the wrong end to.

Sturgeon Stewart, the dapper and intelligent Secretary of the Association, said the Townley Estate proper was between Manchester and Burnley and now had a rental of \$800,000 per annum. This was but a small portion of the contested property. The purpose of the meeting today was to so unite as to push to a successful issue the work that the Consolidated Association had been engaged in for ten months. This could only be done by grand, harmonious, united effort.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, urged procedure to business. How were the heirs to prove descent if there was an estate? How was the money for investigation to be raised? How much would it take? What was to be done with it?

Adjournment for dinner was had. The forenoon session had been very unsatisfactory and the expectant heirs did not conceal their displeasure; but the officers arranged an afternoon program of decided interest. The attendance had slightly increased when the body reconvened. The Chair promptly introduced L. O. Hall, an attorney of Canandaigua, New York. He said he was not the attorney of any of the Townley Association or a claimant of the estate, and appeared on the platform by conscription, not as a volunteer. He would say as a lawyer, as all lawyers must say, that the Parliamentary act of August, 1885, neither strengthened nor weakened any claim the American heirs might have in the estates. It is simply an act passed by consent of certain persons. It effects none other than those, and says so plainly. Forty persons are barred by consent. The first of these is the Earl of Abington. None but these are barred. And there is a saving clause that so specifies distinctly. The act provides for the government of the estate for 3,000 years by trustees, and orders the raising at once by rentals of say \$1,500,000 to pay the claimants who have consented to be barred. If you people ever had any claim, you have it yet. But there should be unity of claimants. You must get business in shape if you desire to do anything. There ought to be no clashing. And if I were a Townley heir I would be willing to spend some money to settle this matter once and for all. There are two courses of action: 1. To go there and start an Action. The other immediately; the other is to send a man there to give faithful investigation to it. Considerable expense would be attached to that. It would be well to set at it early, for if the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the crown, confirmed by another act of parliament, that would settle the estate forever.

Mayor Ostrem introduced the Honorable Samuel H. Blake of Toronto, ex-vice Chancellor of Ontario. Mr. Blake has a massive peculiarly English face. He is a strong and logical speaker. While he gave free expression to both sides of the problem of the fortune, his lucid ideas inserted a noticeable amount of backbone into the subsequent proceedings. He said, "If you have an Estate in England you want to know it. There are two or three points which are immaterial in this connection. The value of the estate is of no importance. It is conceded to be worth \$15,000,000. Complete tracing of genealogy is unimportant until the existence of the Estate is demonstrated. If you were promised Paradise, would you first trace your genealogy to Adam or find out if the promiser could give you Paradise? Then that act of Parliament, you get nothing and lose nothing by it. Throwing these aside, is there not a question that all heirs at the threshold of this matter? Erastus Wyman and W. H. Howland- and these are well known names in Canada- will act with myself in finally reporting on the investigation. I have advised the Toronto Association to send someone to England to visit Yorkshire and Lancashire and ascertain how the estate stands, then to submit the facts about the estates to two leading counselors of London and ask the opinion as to whether the statute of limitations bars American claimants. This is the advice I should give in a simple ejectment suit. If favorable opinions are received, then the suit might be commenced, with all American heirs as common claimants. They might be incorporated as an Association for Reclaiming the Townley Estates. It was a vast

matter to open, but what would be a heavy expense for one, would be light, distributed among many people.

"The possibility that the American claims are still alive comes because the statute of limitations may not run in favor of trustees to the exclusion of claimants. You should waste no more intelligence, time and money. Prepare to grasp at this matter now, to find out what there is to it, or abandon its pursuit and engage in other affairs. Mr. Geare has asked me to go to England and begin investigation. Other business calls me there the 1st of February. I could place the matter in the hands of Bishop, Pompous, Fox and Co., leading and most reliable London barristers. But I could not do this without depositing money for their work. Three thousand dollars ought to pay for the investigation. Opinions expressed by me as to the probable success or failure of the heirs would be equally wrong. The success of a case depends on facts. There is no hope of success unless the facts are obtained."

Mr. Blake answered a great many questions, but declined to express opinions on the outcome. However, when he had done a sharp-figured female delegate arose in the rear end of the room and asked: "How soon will we get our money?" He replied that the preliminary investigation would occupy five months. Beyond that every thing of necessity was conjecture.

The convention, after some discussion proceeded to business. The following was adopted:

Resolved: That in view of the eminently satisfactory, clear and definite statements and views of the various speakers at this convention of the Lawrence-Townley-Chase claimants, it is hereby resolved that in the opinion of this convention a united effort should be made at once, and once for all, to ascertain the position of the estate and moneys claimed by the Lawrence-Chase-Townley heirs.

D. B. Richardson of Millington, attorney for a group of heirs in Tuscola County, offered the following which were also adopted:

Resolved: That the Officers of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association of Toronto, be instructed to proceed immediately to a preliminary investigation of the Lawrence-Townley-Chase Estates in England, and establish First, is there such an estate to be inherited? Second, does the statute of limitations bar the claimants in America and England from obtaining said estate?

Resolved: That the expense of the said investigation be borne by voluntary contribution from all claimants in the United States and Canada, said contribution to be collected before said investigation is commenced and as soon as possible.

Mrs. L. E. Welton of Grand Rapids, (Michigan), supported by N. L. Eaton of Cleveland, (Ohio) offered the following:

Resolved: That in order to carry out the spirit of the resolution just passed, this meeting pledges itself through the various associations and parties interested to raise a sum of money not exceeding \$5,000 at once in order to make the necessary

investigation and procure from sources in England a report on the question of the position of these estates.

This was adopted unanimously and followed by one designating S. H. Blake as the person to carry on the investigation. He expressed thanks.

Considerable money and a number of pledges were raised in the audience. The Bellevue Association delegates announced that they had raised \$500 which they were ready to contribute.

President Lawrence of the Michigan Association was named as the person through whom the local funds should pass as Treasurer to the proper parties at Toronto. Adjourned sine die.

Last evening there was an informal meeting at the Antisdel House parlora at which miscellaneous matters were discussed. Among other things, Secretary Stewart presented London solicitors opinions to the effect that the case of the Lawrence-Townley claimants was a good one and, if their pedigree is all right, they should have no difficulty in obtaining the estates, for the late act was for the express object of permitting the deviation from the laws of inheritance and rendering a division feasible.

It plainly appears that persons not the direct heirs of Mary Townley, the whom the property, or a large portion of it, descends by wills, settlements, etc., but descendants of uncles, aunts, cousins, and what-not, are receiving part of the income in the absence of true heirs. There was some discussion as to division in the event of winning the fabled millions. It was generally conceded that the division should be that if any of the lines of the heirs won the Estate, all who could prove relationship, whether in the direct line or not, should share equally. This manner of proposition will probably finally be drawn up and signed by the officers of the principle and auxiliary associations

At a late hour, the "heirs" separated and the international convention was over. Edgar Weeks, the original attorney of the Michigan association, gives the proceedings of the convention his approval. He says it is an intelligent way to go at the problem. Mr. Weeks sat in the body of the hall yesterday and put in a great deal of time pouring over the voluminous Townley act.

Colonel E. H. Sellers sat in the convention as attorney of some Detroit heirs.

The three Canadian trustees who have been deputed to report on the bearings of the property in question, are among the front rank of Canadian citizens. S. H. Blake is an ex-vice Chancellor of Ontario and head of one of the most prominent legal firms in the Province. Erastus Wyman is a wealthy Canadian who made his fortune in New York. He is a Director of the Western Union Telegraph Company and President of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company of Canada. W. H. Howland is mayor of Toronto, Ontario.

(1)

475 Kings St- West Toronto

Mr Epitio

Augth 26th 1885

My Dear Sir

Enclosed please find for

your perusal a condensed report of the proceedings
& nearly find issue of the Lawrence Loungy Estate
concerning most joyful justice to all legal
heirs & Robtly Terminating a knotty question that
has caused many of the heirs to uselessly spend
thousands of dollars; besides agitating the public
mind in the united States and Canada for
nearly half a Century Hoping you will give
it your sincere attention & unite with us

a family, in assisting to find out all that
are heirs, or that are interested in the matter by
bulletining what you may deem important in
this document (for your section) & send me a
copy of it will file it away & use my Best Efforts
& influence to see that you will not be forgotten
& well Paged for your trouble our Family holds a
Bill register, with & Ancient documents & reaching
Back for over 200 years that has been of vital
importance to all of the heirs in obtaining this
Enormous Estate (Now reaching nearly 800,000,000)
& covering an area of 40,000 acres of valuable land
in England, for our benefit certain heirs in England
have united with us among whom is a family
of the nobility & have succeeded in getting a Bill passed
through the House of Commons for the

(2)

Devision of this vast Estate to all of the heirs of Both
Lines, the Elizabeth Lowley & Mary Lowley as the Bill
makes ample provision for the whole Lowley
Estate Hence the necessity of getting together the
names of all the heirs & Copying of their Ancestries
all deeds so we can send them (without delay)
A Copy of the real state of the Case up to the
Present time & all information possible to give
(an both Lines) our family Commenced to
Investigate this matter, though one of the
family (Mr Fenner Furgerson in 1848 Continuing
it until 1858 when he died of Brain power
at Washington in his 2th term as united
States Servity for Achaska then all Proceeding
Stopped Since then members of our family has

See¹¹ a number of letters for Copies of our famous
Thomas Lawrence Bible registers (a Copy of
which I send you) & other family record or
documents; But they were never sent untill five
months ago, I took hold of the matter in the
interest of our family here & in the united
States as well as the West Indies & Colonies (other
Branches) in England when the Paper kindly
gave an account of the details of our Bible
registers & called it the Connecting link that
would enable all Lawrence Family heirs
(of both lines) to get their Claims it was
copied in a short time all over the States and
Canada & brought in much valuable information
which has seemed to verify their Predictions
as our work in connection with the English heirs

Estate they were held for some Centuries and
 Succession To
 Laurence Lowndes Estate: in England,
 Lord, ~~the~~ Widdringtons Estate in ~~Carthum~~ Cumberland
 Willed to his Child Mary Widdrington

Mary Widdrington married 1665
 Estate by Will & Marriage Settlement
 She Willed to Daughter Mary &
 Dortha Lowndes Born Lowndes
 (Infant) died 1667

John Lowndes Born 1669 ~~as the~~
 when burned the Estate reverted
 to Mary & Dortha John Lowndes
 died 1713 he married Joan
 Standish in 1695 this to the Standish
 Estate willed to her by her Husband
 died 1708

Sir Richard Lowndes of Fanny Hall
 Will proved Oct. 10th 1735
 died — — — 1735
 4 Children Born John &
~~the~~ Mary & Dortha Lowndes

Mary Lowndes	Came to America in 1713 lived in Boston	Dortha married Henry Howard of Cherry Postle
Born 1672	uniting the Lowndes & Standish Estates after the death of John Lowndes in 1713	Willed to his wife died 1704
married 1743	to Holifox & Standish in 1743	
born 1679	Willed to her sister Mary & her heirs for ever died 1742	
married John Lawrence of Fanny Hall 1698		

Succession To
 Lawrence Lowmly Estate: in England,
 Lord, ~~the~~ Widdingtons Estate in ^Bas Mumderland
 Willed to his Child Mary Widdington

Mary Widdington married 1665
 Estate by Will & Marriage Settlement
 She Willed to Daughter Mary &
 Martha Lowmly Born Lowmly
 (Infant) died 1667

John Lowmly Born 1669 also Child
 when Surved the Estate reverted
 to Mary & Martha John Lowmly
 Died 1713 he married Joan
 Standish in 1695 this to the Standish
 Estate Willed to her by her Husband
 Died 1708

Sir Richard Lowmly of Faunty Hall
 Will Proved Oct. 10th 1735
 Died — — — 1735
 4 Children Born John &
~~Wm~~ Mary & Martha Lowmly

Mary Lowmly	Came to America in 1718 lived in Boston	Martha married Henry Howard of Chilly Castle
Born 1672	uniting the Family Widdington	
Standish Howard	in 1743	Willed to his Wife died
Estate after the death of John Lowmly in 1713	Martha Lowmly Born 1673	
Mary died 1743	Willed to her sister Mary & her heirs	1704
Mary Lowmly married John Lawrence of Ashton Hall 1693	1772	

(4)

Now the writer goes on to say
By the above you will see that a large part of
the Lawny Estate through death & failure of issue
with ye has all come down to the heirs &
descendants of John Lawrence & Mary Lowry married at
Hogue in Holland in 1683 Note Explanation (of above the
van Tempert Estate came into the hands of Lord ~~Mid~~ Mid
-ton) the most valuable in England; comprising the extensive
mining properties at Stella, Blaton, Winboiton &
Stanly in the Counties of Lancashire, York, & Durham,
their value being enormous, It is now under the
Care of the Marguis of Landendary for the gov-
ernment Lord Middington of Northumberland
& Co Engⁿ died possessed of the family Estate Middington
Parish & also large properties in Durham, Lancashire
& York Co called than as now the van Tempert

Estate they were held for some Centuries (and during the reign of the Stuarts by the Temper family, one of the Miss Temper who was sold his to this Property married Lord Muddrington & their only Child Mary Muddrington married in 1665 Sir Richard Townly (See above) of Townly Hall Thus the Property all came into the Townly family of Lancaster CO

Hamley	1	Sir Robert, Lawrence	married 1299	Anna De Treppard
"	2	James, Lawrence	1321	Matilda, Washington
"	3	John, Lawrence	1347	Margaret, Chesford
"	4	John, Lawrence	1377	Elizabeth, Holden
"	5	Robert, Lawrence	1408	Jane Wentworth Wentworth
"	6	John, Lawrence	1436	Margaret
"	7	Robert, Lawrence	1458	Jane
"	8	John, Lawrence	1490	Sarah Baldwin
"	9	Robert, Lawrence	1504	Elizabeth Townly
"	10	John, Lawrence	1532	Margaret Broadford
"	11	John, Lawrence	1558	Jane, Elliott
"	12	John, Lawrence	1590	Agnes, Bowant
"	13	Robert, Lawrence	1606	Margaret Patey
"	14	John, Lawrence	1629	John, Carter
"	15	"	1651	Anne, Sandeott
"	16	"	1672	Mary, Banerol
"	17	"	1693	Mary, Townly

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The De Troppard family; whose daughter Anne
married the first lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence
in 1298 was another old family like the Stangers
Lowny & Gerard The Elizabeth Lowny that married
the 9th lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence (see line
of Lawrence) and the Mary Lawrence Lowny the
17th lineal heir, are two distinct Estates (the writes)
Sole, I have proof that their was (30,000,000 of this
last Lowny Estate awarded By will to the Elizabeth
Lowny who married Sir Robert Lawrence ⁱⁿ time
of heirs & was duly paid & this large amount seen
1504 has now increased to a vast fortune on
Act which with our friends & heirs in England

we have yet read the 3rd time ~~on~~ the 4th of this
month, Before the Close of the Engl Parliament
which has now become a law; has a Saving Clause
& makes ample Provision for the Payment to
the heirs as soon as their Claims are Proved of
Both Estates, Hence all will see the necessity of sending
in with as little delay as possible their names & addresses
with Copies of all information, poets & addresses,
proofs they possess & all on Both
~~with Copies of all information~~, Since with as
little Delay as possible, will get freed without charge
a full understanding of the Lowly Estate of matters
up to Present date, This Act Mr Morgan the
Principal Clerk of Privy Bills of the House of Com-
mons Engl, writes that the Bill was read a 8th time
on the 4th of the month without a word of Com-
ment & Became Law it Contains a Saving

(6)

Plans for the protection of all Legal heirs of Bath's
Estate who may ~~turn~~ Eventually turn up, Over 200
Pages are occupied with the Schedule of the ~~the~~
property & record the minutest details. I am
receiving letters almost Every day from England
& sent 30 Pages of facts & matters 3 months ago to the
English heirs; Theirs are quite Considerably Part
with the Schedules of the Bill already, But the Clerk
of the house of Commons has Been kind Enough to
Send me a Printed Copy of the Bill which
will soon be near for the free use of all who
wish to see it; A few Extracts from a letter Recd
on the 18th of this Month from one of the heirs in
England, a Rev^d Minister of Bath Eng; & Chaplain
Minister he says This Bill is a Document of the Estate
important to us all bearing out what you alude

to in the first portion of the Poppys you have been good
Enough to send us of dear in the matter of such great
Consequence that I think, it only due to you that the
Earliest Possible information should be dispatched home
My writing by this mail in order to catch it if I can.
I do more than give you a Brief outline, for the time
of July 28th we read that our Lowly Estate Bill was read
& 2nd time & that day in the House of Commons without
A word of Comment & that I see on the 4th inst it
was read the 3rd in the same way & has become. I saw
the Bill deals with the whole Lowly Property Bath Estate
& the schedule in the most detail covering over 200
pages the Stella Aston werlston & Stahly as in your
Poppys the Act. distinctly shows us the information & high
value of the information you have given us I am now
all the more desirous to see the remaining Document or
Poppies in your hands.

(7.)

it is likewise clear to me that our action in the
matter must be mutual, you need a copy of the
Act, and shall await your arrival at your office in
London Eng. The exact title is as follows Vis.
An Act for carrying into effect the division of certain
hereditaments known as the Townly Estates in the
Forest of Bowland same Counties as the Stebton & Standy
& in the County of Trucham. & for other purposes 48 &
49 Victoria - Session 1885 on Page 64 is this important
Clause - And it was declared that on & from the first
day of July 1884 the said 3 Dowers of the said Charles
Townly and those claims under them, were to be & seem
Entitled to the Mansion House Park & Lands of Townly

& the hereditaments in the Counties of Lancaster
& York, known & comprehended under the general
Designation of the Townly Estate & The following the
Boulton & Stella Estate & Co our family is related
to the Earl of Goldsleigh or Lie Stoppard Northcote & their
family comes in Equally with us in this ^{Townly} Estate who is on the
way to Canada & now He has no doubt been the Prime
Mover in placing this matter in the favorable Position
it is now. There is not the least doubt that a member
of Nobility in Engⁿ being interested has done more in
placing matter in the favorable Position it is at present
than all the combined force of the remaining heirs could
have done, the Bill has dealt a Death Blow to all
slandering those who have squandered other money
& then returned & circulated all kind of false reports
& all infamous Lies there has been one of the Most ^{Disgraceful} Stupen

(8)

frauds Perpetrated upon the heirs in Canada & the
united States that ^{has} Ever Been Perpetrated upon an
Educated & intelligent People, some even coming
Back & saying that they had found that their was
no such Estate or partum in Engⁿ & putting out Books
& selling them to that Effect, for some gives it has
Been thought that their was an under current at
work to Effect all this, & now facts are coming to
light to strongly produce grave fears that those
in charge of these Estates for the government have
Been robbing the heirs of millions using the fund
in buying off those sent to investigate the case
& paying them for canceling there documents to the
Extent that I doubt the heirs will call upon
the government for an investigation, The actⁿ will
Be a consolation to all true heirs they will feel
they are now on the right track & free from Eng

More Willing

Children of John Lawrence & Mary Lowmy Regists of
marriage: Kirk, Hague, in Holland 1698

John & Jonathan (Twins) Born on Ship Highflyer 1698

Baptized at Long Coeter Parish Church Wiltmerall
This was Mary Lowmy's home Church Record 1698. Hague
Born Hague Holland Jan., 23rd. 1697 recorded Kirk
(die Walpoole marry aged 16 years
(Twins) Died Sept-18th } Recorded Kirk Hague } 1697 } Death Page 166 }

Thomas Lowmy Born Aug., 23rd 1708 married Mary Northeote
Oct 6th 1725 She was Born Oct. 3 1701

Mrs. Lawrence Born Aug., 23-1714 Boston Mass.,
Recorded Kings Chapel

The writer says from some records of home they lived closely if not
all of the time from 1697 to 1713 at Hague Holland at
which time there is records that they sailed
in the autumn of 1718 from London & Landesh

(9)

in Plymouth Mass. thair it seems they
went almost immediately to Holifax Nova Scotia
where they soon left & came to Boston where
they resided in ~~1697~~ 1714 Between 1697 & 1714 are
16 years which covers our Thomas Lowman in the
alone registers we expect to find several children
Richard Joseph & a Levi & on the Dischothe Townly
line it seems we shall find a Levi Nathaniel
& c on both lines of the Townly Settle are moving
& connected with the Society in Eng.

Letter of Rev. J. H. Winers

Jan. 20th 1885 Dear Sir your important letter
addressed Dr J A Winers has just been forwarded

to me for several yrs I rightly understand
Dr J. A. Winers answer he appears to have forgotten
Particulars of the relationship which exists between
your family & ours I have known there like
other of my family for many years, what your
Dad has some time I have with other intimate
members of our family been investigating the
matter & I am now without doubt that we as
well as your family are direct heirs to the John
Lawrence & Mary Lowely who was married in 1683
For some years past I have busily collected
Particulars of our Pedigree with special reference
to the Lawrence Lowely & Hartwate & other families
Consequently if you will let me know the little
Evidence in the matter that you would like us to
look up in Eng. I may be able from my own report

(10)

to furnish you at once with this, I am convinced
that the whole matter might easily & promptly
be settled to the mutual advantage of both
Parties, if you will send me a copy of the
Famous Thomas Lawrence Bible register as you
so kindly promised Dr. J. C. Lawrence may do
as you please whether this or all papers be
forwarded to him or to me I am equally
concerned in the matter, on my part
I shall be delighted to send you any information
I possess I have long marvelled why the matter
was not settled as it might now be
in 1880 The Northcott Gate of Arms & Arms
Combined quartered with the Stafford
you may like to know that two days the queen
made Sir Stafford Northcott the Earl of

Goldersleigh & his Count St. Evans yours
Faithfully Rev. Frederick, A. H. Vinen

P.S. the Hartmeot Shield is this proper ^{should} ~~blows him~~
Heraldic colours are - Cross corselets black
upon a silver shield the Hartmeot & Steffay
arms more combined when Sir Henry Hartmeot
M.P. 5th Baronet married Bridget - married only
Daughter & Heir of Hugh Stefford he died in 1743
Aged 38 I shall be glad to send you the same
arms crest & motto if you would like to have
the address Rev. Frederick, A. H. Vinen England

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Published 1673

Margaret our Bible register of
Thomas Lawrence and Mary Garthwaite

Born - Oct^r 3rd 1701

Thomas ~~Gr~~ Born Aug^r 23rd 1703

Thomas ~~Gr~~ Married Oct^r 6th 1725

Mary ~~Gr~~ Born Jan^r 6th a clock in the morning on Friday 1727

Betty ~~Gr~~ " on Friday 1 O'clock P.M. July 16th 1728

Died March 8th 1728 on Saturday just after 4 O'clock
Buried 14th Friday

Thomas ~~Gr~~ Born Jan 15th on Tuesday at 9 O'clock in the morning 1780

Samuel " June 12th on Saturday Between 6 & 7 1782

Mary " Died Jan^r 29th 1783 on ~~Thursday the 1st~~ ^{Saturday} on

Wednesday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon Buried
Thursday the 1st day of February aged six years & Eight
Days old Born May 8th Between 9 & 10 o'clock

Wednesday 1734

Anna " Born May 25th Between 4 & 5 O'clock in the morning 1736

Maria " " July 25th on Saturday Between 9 & 11 O'clock 1741

Thomas " Died Sept. 6th about noon 1765

Aged 62 years

Mary " - Died Dec. 16 1773

Aged 72 years

Copied from Documents Rec. from
the Sec. of Lawrence Township association
Formed an Organized September 15 at the
Michigan Exchange Detroit Michigan
By P. J. Lawrence Corresponding Committee

Copied Nov. 20th 1885

475 Kings St. West Toronto, Canada

August 26th 1885

M (Exiter)

My Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find for your perusal a compended repast of the property (thereby) find issue of the Lawrence-Townley Estate most joyful () to all legal heirs and probably terminating a knotty question that has caused many of the heirs to uselessly spend thousands of dollars, besides agitating the public mind in the United States and Canada for nearly half a century. Hoping you will give it your sincere attention and unite with us as a family in assisting to find out all that are heirs, or that are interested in the matter by publishing what you may deem important in this document (foregoing section) and send me a copy. I will file it away and use my best efforts and influence to see that you will not be forgotten and well paid for your trouble. Our family holds a Bills register, with the continent documents and are reaching back for over 200 years that have been of vital importance to all of the heirs in attaining this enormous estate, now reaching nearly 800,000,000 dollars and covering an area of 40,000 acres of valuable land in England. For our benefit, certain heirs in England have united with us among whom is a number of the ("habitily") and have succeeded in getting a bill passed through the House of Commons for the division of this vast estate to all of the heirs of both lines, the Elizabeth Townley and Mary Townley, as the bill makes ample provision for the whole Townley Estate, therein the necessity of getting together the names of all the heirs and copies of their ancestry. All doing so, we can send them, without pause, a copy of the real state of the case up to the present time and all information possible to give (on both lines). Our family commenced to investigate this matter, through one of the family (Mr. Fenner Fuerguson in 1848 and continuing it to 1858 when he died of brain fever at Washington in his 2nd term as United States senator from Nebraska, than all preceding studied lines. Since then members of our family have received a number of letters for copies of our famous Thomas Lawrence bible registry, (a copy of which I send you) and other family records as documents, but they were never sent until five months ago. I took hold of the matter in the behest of our family here and in the United States as well as the Northcotes and Vinens (other branches) in England when the paper kindly gave an account of the details of our Bible register and called it the connecting link that would enable all LawrenceTownley heirs (of both lines) to get their claims. It was copied in a short time all over the states and in Canada and brought in much valuable information which has seemed to verify their prediction. As our work, in connection with the British heirs has done more than has been accomplished for 40 years and brought the Lawrence-Townley matter into a general investigation with all of the heirs, both of the English Townley who married Sir Robert Lawrence, ninth in the line of heirs, and Mary Townley who married John Lawrence (as the bill just passed) has dealt equally with both lines and both estates. The schedule of the bill covers over 200 pages and designates the minutest details of the property. This is the only copy sent to your city hoping this manuscript will receive your sincere attention and valuable assistance- I remain with kind regards Faithfully yours,

William Northcote Gears
475 Kings St.. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**SUCCESSION TO THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE
IN ENGLAND; LORD W. WIDDRINGTONS ESTATE IN
NORTHUMBERLAND, WILLED TO HIS CHILD, MARY
WIDDRINGTON.**

Mary Widdrington married 1665.
Estate by will and marriage settlement
She willed to daughters Mary and
Dorothy Townley born Townley
(Infant died 1667)

John Townley born 1669 had no
children survived. The estate
reverted to Mary and Dorothy.
John Townley died 1713. He
married Joan Standish in 1695,
heir to the Standish Estate willed
to her by Deed in 1708 by her
husband.

Sir Richard Townley of Townley Hall
Will proved October 10, 1735- Sir
Richard died, 1735. Four children were
born, John, William, Mary and Dorothy
Townley.

Mary Townley, born 1672 uniting with the family Widdrington, Standish-Howard Estate after the death of John Townley in 1718. Mary died in 1743. Mary Townley married John Law- rence of Ashton Hall 1693.	Came to America in 1713 lived in Boston, Halifax, and Walpole, MA. Died in 1743 Dortha Townley born in 1673 Willed to her sister Mary and her heirs for --- Died 1742	Dortha married Henry Howard of Cork Costee willed to his wife. Died 1704.
---	---	---

Now the writer goes on to say:

By the above you will see that a large part of the Townley Estate through death and failure of issue wills have all come down to the heirs and descendants of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, married at The Hague in Holland in 1693 (note explanation of above.) The Von Tempest Estate came into the hands of Lord Widdrington, the most () in England, comprising extensive properties at Stella Blaton; Winboitan and Stanley in the county of Lancashire () and Durham, their value being enormous. It is now under the care of the Marquis of Londonderry for the government. Lord Widdrington of Northumberland County, England died possessed of the family estate, Widdrington Parish and also large properties in Durham, Lancashire and York counties called then as now, the Von Tempest Estate. They were held for some centuries (and during the reign of the Stuarts by the Tempest family. One of the Miss Tempests who was sole heir to this property married Lord Widdrington and Their only child Mary Widdrington married in 1665, Sir Richard Townley (see above) of Townley Hall. Thus the property all came into the Townley family of Lancashire county.

Family	Name	Married	Name
--------	------	---------	------

Minister. He says "this Bill is a document of the estate important to us all bearing out what you allude to in the first portion of the paper you have been good enough to send us. The matter of such great consequence that I think it only due to you that the earliest possible information should be dispatched hom. My writing by this mail in order to catch it (shin-ly). Now do more than give you a brief outline for the time of July 28th. We read that one Townley Estate Bill was read a 2nd time and that day in the House of Commons without a word of comment and that since on the 4th instant it was read the 8th in the same way and has become a law. The bill deals with the whole Townley property both estate and the schedule, in minutest detail, covering over 200 pages. Mrs. Stella Ryton Wesburton and Stanley as in your paper, the act distinctly shows us the information and high value of the information you have given us. I am now all the more desirous to see the remaining documents as it is likewise clear to me that our action in the matter must be mutual. You need copy of the act. One shall await yur arrival at our office in London, England. The Exact title is as follows, this:

This, an act for (carrying) into effect the division of certain heriditanient known as the Townley Estates in the Forest of Bowland, same counties as the Stiller and stanley in the county of Durham and for other purposes 48 and 49 () Session 1885 on Page 64 is this important clause- and it wa declared that on and from the first day of July, 1881, the said three daughters of the said () Townley and those claims under them, were to be () entitled to the Mansion House park and lands of Townley and the hereditenients in the counties of Lancashire and York, known and comprehended under the general designation of the Townley Estate and the following the Bowland and Stella Estates and to our family is related to the Earl of Goldsleigh or Sir Stafford Northcote, and their family comes in equally with us in this Townley Estae, who is on his way to Canada. Now he has no doubt been the prime mover in placing this matter in the possible position it is now. Thair is not the least doubt that as members of Nobility in England, being interested, has done more in placing matters in favorable position it is at present, than all the combined force of the remaining heirs could have done, the bill has dealt a death blow to all () those who have squandered others money and then returned and circulated all kinds of false reports and all infamous lies thair has been one of the most stupendous frauds () upon the heirs in Canada and the United States that has ever been perpetrated upon an educated and intelligent people. Some () coming back and saying that they had foundthat thair was no such estate or fortune in England, and putting out books and selling them to that effect. For some years it has been thought that thair was an undercurrent at work to effect all of this and now facts are coming to light to strongly reduce grave fears that those in charge of these estates ~~the~~ the government have been robbing the heirs of millions using the fund in buying off those sent to investigate the case and paying them for concealing these documents to the extent that no doubt the heirs will call upon the government for an investigation. The act will be a consolation to all true heirs. They will feel they are now on the right track and free from England's more villany.

Children of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, Register of Marriage.

Kirk (Church) The Hague in Holland 1693

Family	Name	Married	Name
1.	Sir Robert Lawrence	1298	Anna De Trafford
2.	James Lawrence	1321	Matilda De Washington
3.	John Lawrence	1347	Margaret Chesford
4.	John Lawrence	1378	Elizabeth Holden
5.	Robert Lawrence	1408	Jane Winthrop
6.	John Lawrence	1436	----- Morgain *
7.	Robert Lawrence	1459	Jane -----
8.	John Lawrence	1480	Sarah Baldwin
9.	Robert Lawrence	1504	Elizabeth Townley
10.	John Lawrence	1532	Mariah Bradford
11.	John Lawrence	1559	Jane Eliott *
12.	John Lawrence	1580	Agnes Bourant *
13.	Robert Lawrence	1606	Margret Poster *
14.	John Lawrence	1629	Jane Canger *
15.	John Lawrence	1651	Anne Gandate *
16.	John Lawrence	1672	Mary Banard *
17.	John Lawrence	1693	Mary Townly

The DeTrafford family, whose daughter Anna married the first lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence n 1298 was another old family like the Standish, Townly and (Gerard). The Elizabeth Townly that married the ninth lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence (See line of Lawrences) and the Mary Lawrence Townly, the 17th lineal heir are the to distinct Estates (the writer) says.

I have proof that their was (30,000,000) of this vast Townly Estate awarded by will to the Elizabeth Townly who married Sir Robert Lawrence, 9th line of heirs and ws never paid and this large amount since 1504 hs now increased to a vast fortune, an account of which with our friends and heirs in England we have got read for the 3rd time on the 4th of this month, before the close of the English Parliament, which has now become a law. It (the Bill) has a clause and makes ample provision for the payment to the heirs as fast as their claims are proved of both estates, then all will see the neccessity of sending in with as little delay as possible theier names and addresses with copies of all information, facts, and proof they possess and ll on both lines with as little delay as possible, will get free and without charge a full understanding of the Townley Estate and matters up to the present date. This act, Mr. Morgan, the principal Clerk of Privet bills of the House of Commons, England writes that the bill was read on 8:00 time on the 4th of the month without a word of comment and became law. It contains a "saving clause" for the protection of all legal heirs of both Estates who may eventually turn up. Over 200 pages are occupied with the schedule of the property and record the minutest details. I am receiving letters almost every day from England and sent 30 pages of fcts and matter 3 months ago to the English heirs. Therefore I am quite considerably party with the schedules of the Bill already. But the Clerk of the House of Commons has been kind enough to send me a printed copy of the Bill which will soon be here for the free use of all who wish to see it. A few extracts from a letter received on the 18th of this month from one of the heirs in England, a Reverend Vinen of Bath, England, a Chaplain

John and Jonathan, twin boys were born on the ship Highflyer,
1698

Mary Townley was baptized at Corby Costee Parish Church, Witherall.
This was Mary Townley's home church record, 1685. Born in The Hague,
Holland January 23, 1687, recorded in the Kirk.

John Lawrence, Walpole, Ma. married at age 16.

Twins Died September 18th, 1697, Kirk, The Hague, death page 166

Thomas Lawrence Born August 23, 1703, married Mary Northcote
October 6th, 1725 Mary Northcote was born October 3, 1701.

William Lawrence, born August 23, 1714, Boston, MA. Recorded in
Kings Chapel.

(The writer says) "From some records I have, they lived mainly, if not all
the time from 1697 - 1713 at the Hague, Holland at which time there is a record that they
sailed in the autumn of 1713 from London and landed in Plymouth, MA. There it seems
they went almost immediately to Halifax, Nova Scotia where they soon left to come to
Boston where they resided in 1714. Between 1697 and 1714 are 16 years which beside
our Thomas Lawrence in the () register. We expect to find several children, Richard,
Joseph and a Levi and on the Elizabeth Townley line, it seems we shall find a Levi,
Nathaniel and on both lines of the Townley estate are moving and connected with the
nobility in England

Letter of Reverend F. N. Vinen

January 20th, 1885.

Dear Sir:

Your important letter addressed to Dr. J. H. Vinen has just been forwarded to me
for perusal. If I rightly understand Dr. J. H. Vinen's answer, he appears to have forgotten
particulars of the relationship which exists between your family and ours. I have known
there are others of my family for many years. What you say for some time I have with
others interested members of our family been investigating the matter and we have
proved without doubt that we, as well as your family are direct heirs to the John Lawrence
and Mary Townley who was married in 1693. For some years past I have carefully
collected particulars of our pedigree with special reference to the Lawrence-Townley-
Northcote and other families. Consequently, if you will let me know the little evidence in
the matter that you would like me to look up in England, I may be able from my own
purpose to furnish you at once with this. Your comment that the whole matter might
easily and promptly be settled to the mutual advantage of both families. If you will send
me a copy of the famous Thomas Lawrence Bible expected as you so kindly promised
Dr. J. Vinen pray so as you please whether this and all papers be forwarded to him or
to me since we are equally concerned in the matter. On my part I shall be delighted to
send you every information I possess. I have long marvelled why the matter was not
settled as it might have been in 1860. The Northcote Coat of Arms... **

- uncertain about the name and spelling- difficult handwriting- Blank parentheses indicate a non-readable word which probably would require someone with a knowledge of early writing styles to correctly read.

There are sections which do not seem to flow and I left the original spelling and sentence structure the way the author seemed to write.

** I leave the description of the Northcote Cote of Arms and Shield to those interested as I have also left the list of descendents uncopied. The Final note at the end of these epistles probably explains genetically why my own scrawling is difficult to read:

“Copied from documents received from the Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, formed and organized September 15 at the Michigan Exchange, Detroit, Michigan, by Porter J. Lawrence, Corresponding Committee.

Coppied November 20th, 1885

Oxford Oct 21st 1855

Mr P. J. Lawrence
Winchago

Dear Uncle

You wished me to keep you posted and I think I am right on the post so here follows
Mrs Morgan of Bennington and she wrote me that
her Grand mother was a daughter of Jonathan L. and I
received a written letter from Mrs Bigelow that this Mary
was her grand father's sister to day I received a second
letter from Mrs Morgan with the following records from
her branch enclosed (I send you a copy)

Record from Norwich

1st book page 10 Isaac Lawrence married Susannah Reed 1708

Children
Samuel L. born Nov. 29 - 1710

Hannah L. " Mar 18 - 1711 1/2

Deborah L. " May 6 - 1714

Jonathan died May 21 - 1733 (no record of his
birth given in this)

1st book page 72 Isaac L. Sen died April 19 - 1733 born 1660

Jonathan L. Mar. Oct 29 - 1733 Mary Jackson

Book page 241 Ira Jonathan L. Mar. Oct 29 1759 Irish Cousin
(over)

Children (2)

Ruben L. born June 22-1760

Lydia " " Jan 15-1762

Joanna " " May 31-1763

book page 273

Josiah Lawrence married March 18/1761

Children Mary born Dec 19-1761

Josiah " " Nov 29-1763

Lucy " " Apr 23-1765-

book page 311

Samuel L. married Thankfull Cady Nov 29-1766

Children Solomon L. born Sept 14-1767

book page 363 Hannah L. married Samuel Palmer 1763

book page 174

Samuel L. + wife Mary

Children Josiah L. born Aug 18-1734

Jonathan L. " Apr 19-1736

Samuel L. " Jan 5-1738

Mary L. " Apr 18-1741

Hannah L. " July 23-1743

John L. " Feb 19-1745

Deborah L. " Jan 23-1747

Anne L. " Dec 2-1754

Susanna L. " Feb 8-1757

2nd book page 2 Hannah L. Mar David Palmer Feb 28-1740
 3rd book " 236 Mary L. " Samuel Safford Sep 23-1760
 " " 270 Mary L. " John Safford Aug 13-1760
 book " 48 Abigail L. " Wm Walbridge July 27-1713

Now what do you think. (I know what you think you think Dams) here to, there must have been some
 rollers in the Lawrence family by the looks of the
 record enclosed. Mrs Morgan wrote that a John L. living
 here called and said that his grand father was the eldest
 son of Josiah and he knew that his great Grand father was
 Jonathan L. So I am going to write him and see if I
 can not get some more records of the family if so will
 send them to you) will close as it is most midnight
 night for I am most dead to hear from some one
 Good night
 W. Lawrence

PS

Where is your John L born in 1801
 over

Fort _____ September 22, 1885

Mr. P.J. Lawrence

Dear Sir:

Your much welcomed letter in hand. I agree with you regarding that we should all work together in trying to establish our claim in this matter. But at the same time, why not make a right start and then finance the search step by step and if it proves there is anything to get we shall all the more be likely be successful.

But I can't say I am in accord with that meeting you held. Even the papers are making a laughing stock of it, the way they came together and the way the meeting was conducted. What did the meeting accomplish? Nothing at all. You did not seem to know who called the meeting. In one word, they really had nothing of any bottom to work on after the meeting had met.

There can be nothing done in the Lawrence/Townley question till after we see a bonafide copy of this act, and ascertain the line of descent it calls for and just actually what it says. There is a right step (that) will be taken. But I don't propose, and there is a great many others who say the same, to connect with any organization, unless established on sound footing. Your secretary, a Mr. Peltow writes me that he has the whole history of the act and does not (require) me for any further information. On that point in fact quite ignores anything or anybody else in the matter. Now I venture to say that he has never seen one iota of this act, only what that man Geare of Toronto has told him or Geare's uncle Dr. Upjohn of Hastings, Michigan, who was sent there by this Geare, thinking it was our meeting so he could report to Toronto.

To prove you this and the way Geare of Toronto is deceiving heirs, he, Geare, had (mentioned) in the Toronto Evening News that a copy of the act was on view at his office in Toronto. 2nd, that the Honorable Northcote was in this country purposely to consult with him. When I was in Toronto, this Honorable Northcote was there and left again without going near him. Furthermore, there had no such copy been received from England. You see how much is to be relied on him.

I have got our members of congress to write to W. S. Miuster(sp) for a copy. When that comes, if there proves (to be) any such thing, then we are going to have a large meeting, 150 expected and more from different points and states. Then something in a tangible form will be done to push the thing through.

We don't intend to recognize any other previous meeting if they don't intend to come and fall into line. They can suit themselves about that. There have been too many of these meetings held in the past and nothing accomplished- so we intend to make a right start now.

Respectfully yours,

D. E. Harras

Port Gratiot Sep 22/85

Mr J J Lawrence

Dear Sir

Your much welcomed
 letter to hand, I agree with
 you regarding that we should
 all work together in trying to
 establish our claim in this matter.
 But at the same time, why not
 make a right start and then
 pursue the search step by step
 and if it proves there is anything
 to get we shall all the more
 be likely be successful.

But I can't say I am in
 accord with that meeting
 you held. Even the papers are
 making a laughing stock of it.
 The way they came together
 and the way the meeting
 was conducted. What did
 the meeting accomplish
 nothing at all. You did not

seem to know who called
the meeting, in one word
they really had nothing of
any bottom to work on after
the meeting had met.

There can be nothing
done in the Larimer County
question till after we see
a bona-fide copy of this Act
and ascertain the line of
descent it calls for and
just actually what it says.
Then a right step will be
taken, but I don't propose
and there is a great many others
who say the same to connect
with any organization, unless
established on sound footing.

Yours Let a Mr Pelton write
me, in answer to mine
that he has the whole history
of the Act and does not trouble
me for any further information
on that point, in fact quite

ignores anything or anybody else
in the matter. Now I venture
to say that he has never seen
any part of this act, only what
that man Gene of Toronto
has told him or Gene's uncle
Mr. Upjohn of Hastings Mich.
who was sent there by this
Gene thinking it was our
meeting. so he could report
to Toronto.

To prove I saw this and the way
Gene of Toronto is deceiving
him. The Genes had inserted
in Toronto Evening news. that
a copy of the Act was on view
at his Office in Toronto. 2d -
that the Hon Northwest was in
this Country purposely to connect
with him. When I was in
Toronto this Hon Northwest was
there and left again without
giving me a word. Furthermore
there had no such copy been
received from England &c

You see how much is to be
relied on him =

I have got our Member
of Congress to write to W &
mason ^{London} for a copy, when that
comes, if there proves any
such thing, then we are going
to have a large meeting
150 is expected or more from
different points and states,
then something in a tangible
form will be done to push
the thing through =

We don't intend
to recognize any other previous
meeting, if they don't intend
to come ~~or~~ fall into line,,
they can suit themselves
about that = There has been
too many of these meetings
held in the past and nothing
accomplished = So we intend
to make a right start now

Respectfully Yours
L. C. Harrar

Owasso, Michigan
September 25, 1895

Mr. P. J. Lawrence, Sir

I saw a notice in the Detroit Evening Journal with regard to Michigan claimants to an English Estate, "from an Inquiry Association" and I address you sir, as Secretary of that Association. With regard to the heirs of the Lawrence family, to which I claim relationship. My mother, was Hannah Lawrence, daughter of Samuel and Rhoda Lawrence who resided at "South Salem", Westchester County, New York, about the year 1775 and later. Their children were sons 4, daughters, 5 I think.

Samuel Lawrence Jr.

Mynor Lawrence

Joel Lawrence

Benedict Lawrence

Daughters

Rhoda Lawrence

Elizabeth Lawrence

Molly Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence (my mother)

Mary Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence was married to Daniel Wilson Jr., son of Daniel Wilson Sr. My father moved to Verona, Oneida Co. New York about the year 1778. Subsequently he moved to Covington, Genesee County, New York. Their children were:

Betsy Mariah Wilson (died)

Samuel Lawrence Wilson (died)

Laura N. Wilson (died)

Ruth Wilson

Thomas Wilson

Ammon Wilson

Rhoda A. Wilson

Sarah A. Wilson.

Betsy Maria married Erastus Prentice, had one son, William.

Samuel Lawrence married Sebrina Shaw, Had two sons and one daughter

Laura died at 24 years, single

Ruth married Ami Chipman has 4 children, one son George and three daughters

Thomas Wilson married Mary E. Dodge, had 6 children, 4 living.

Ammon married 1st, Emily Whitlock, has one child, Elizabeth, both deceased, 2nd, married Elizabeth _____ of Stamford, Connecticut, has one son, Grant Wilson

Rhoda A. married Gideon Webb, had two sons, Thomas and Charles

Sarah A., married David Mason Fargo, they had eight children all living but one. They are:

David Mason Wilson Fargo
Laura Ann Fargo
George Francis (deceased)
Henry S. Fargo
Emily L. Fargo
Amelia A. Fargo
Ellen Fargo
Josephine Fargo
Frank F. Fargo

My brother, Thomas and sister Ruth are now living in Saranac, Michigan. Any further information wanted will be promptly responded to.

Please answer soon and oblige. Yours,

Sarah A. Fargo, Owasso Shiawassee County,

Michigan

OWOSSO, - - MICH.

Sept 25th 1895,

Mr P. H. Lawrence, - sir

I saw a notice, in the Detroit Evening Journal, with regard to Mich. Claimants, to an English Estate, "From an Inquiries Association" And I address you, sir, as Secretary of that Association, with regard to the heirs of the Lawrence family, to which I claim relationship. My Mother, was Hannah Lawrence, Daughter

of Samuel, & Rhoda Lawrence,
who resided at "South Salem",
Westchester County, New York -
about the year, 1775, & later -
Their children, were, sons, 4
Daughters, 5 I think.
Samuel, Lawrence jr.

Miguel, Lawrence,
Joel, Lawrence,
Benedict Lawrence,

Daughters,

Rhoda Lawrence,
Elizabeth Lawrence,
Molly Lawrence,
Hannah Lawrence - my mother
Mary Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence, was married
to Daniel^{sr} Wilson, son of
Daniel Wilson, &c

My father moved to Verona Uni-
-da Co NY - about the year 1798
Subsequently. Move to Covington
Genesee Co NY, Their children were

~~Samuel Lawrence, Wilson,~~

- 1st Betsey, Mariah, Wilson, - ~~dead~~
- 2^d Samuel, Lawrence, Wilson "
- 3^d Laura, H. Wilson, "
- 4th Ruth, Wilson, - - -
- 5th Thomas, Wilson, - - -
- 6th Ammon, Wilson, "
- 7th Rhoda, H. Wilson, "
- 8th Sarah, H. Wilson, - - -

My Brother Thomas, one sister
Ruth are now living in Saranac
N. Y.

Any further information
wanted will be promptly
responded to -

Please answer soon and

oblige Yours &c
Sarah A. Fargo
Oversor Shawasser Co
Mick

Betsy Maria, Married, Grant, Prairie
had one son
William
Samuel, S. married, Sabrina Shaw
had two sons & one
daughter

Laura Dick at 24 single

Betty, Married, Ami, Chipman.
has 2 children, four living
one Son George, & three
daughters

Thomas, Wilson married Mary, & Dodge
has 6 children, 4 living

Annison, married 1st Emily, Whitlock
has 1 child both deceased, 2^d married
Elizabeth of Stamford Conn
has one son
grand son

Rhoda A. married, Sideon Webb
had 2 sons,
Thomas & Charles.

Sarah A. Married.

David Mason Fargo -

they had eight children, all
living but one. They are -

David Wilson, Laura Ann, George, Francis
deceased

Henry S., Emily S., - Amelia A. & Ellen
- F. & Phineas - Frank, Jr Fargo

Olathe, Kansas November 6, 1885

Mr. E. Van Wie

In answer to yours of the 4th instant, I (have had interest) in the Townley estate (since) 1874 as Chase Agent. It is no mith (myth). Parliament has passed an act (august 4th) surrendering said estate to all legal heirs. The Lawrences have a no. 1 prospect. I have yet to make foreign legal connections for the Chases. I will go abroad for that purpose sometime in January. The genealogies of the Lawrences that I have are fragmentary but are good. Give me your genealogy back as far as you can with dates of birth, marriages and deaths and where they lived. The estate must be settled this time. Can you get your committee to unite and help us? The Bill has arrived in this country- 306 pages. (It) will be reprinted \$3.00 per copy.

J. M. Chase
Box 589

[Accompanying this note was a copy of the bill of parliament which has, as far as I can tell, disappeared. Perhaps it can be obtained from the records of parliament for August 4th, 1885]

RLJ

Olathe Kansas Nov., 6th 1885

Mr E. Van. Wie

In answer to yours of
the 4th instant - I in Lowndes Est.
1874 as Chas Agent it is so
with. Parliament has passed
an act (Aug-4th) Surrendering said
Estate to all legal heirs. The Lawren
have a 201 Prospect I have yet
to make for in Royal Connection
for the Chares I will go abroad
for that purpose sometime in
Jan the genealogies of the Lawren
that I have are fragmentary but
are good give me your genealogy
Back as far as you can with (sets
of births marriages and deaths and
where they live, the Estate must
be settled this time can you get
(over)

your Committee to unite and
help us Bill has arising in
this Country 306 Pages and
will be reprinted \$3.00 Per
Copy

J.M. Chase
Box 589

Copy of Bill
of Parliament

2

Monkton Ridge, Vermont
December 11, 1885

Mr. Lawrence- I received your letter yesterday and send this out today- I will give you my own birthplace, age, etc.

I was born in the town of Monkton, County of Addison and State of Vermont. I was May 18th, 1804. I am now 81 years and still smart as a young man- never had a sickness of any account. My grandfather was Josiah Lawrence- now he married widow Mary Branch of Norwich, Connecticut March 18- 1761.

He remained in Norwich a few years and moved into the town of Woodford, Vermont where he made a few years stop and then removed to Bennington where he remained during life. His children were as follows:

Mary, Josiah Jr., Lucy, Roger, Deborah, Diah, Juduh and Solomon.

Juduh died April 20, 1778.

My great grandfather Jonathan had a son John who settled on the Hudson at Fishkill but we know nothing about the children of this new marriage if he was married a second time.

Our grandfather Josiah was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, his youngest child- who after his mother's death was cared for by his sister Experience during his early life. My great grandfather Jonathan died in England or in Nova Scotia where the English government had given him a trust of land for service rendered in the French and Indian war.

Yours -----

Almon Lawrence

Monkton Ridge

December 11-1883

Mr. Lawrence - I received
your letter yesterday & send
this out today. I will give
my own birthplace age &c.
I was born in the town of
Monkton, County of Addison
State of Vermont.

I was born May 18-1804
I am now 81 years & still
amunt as a young man - and
had a sickness of my account
My grandfather was Josiah
Lawrence - now born in Ben-
ington Vermont
My Branch of Norwich Conn.
March 18-1761

The Reverend in W. a few
years moved into the town
of Westport N.H. before he
made a few years stop & then
removed to Farmington before
he commenced clerical life.
His children were as follows
Mary - Pasieth Mary - Roger
- Deborah - Dick - Frederick &
Salomon

Frederick died April 20-1778
My great grandfather Jonathan
had ~~Frederick~~ John who settled
on the Hudson at Fishkill, but
we know best ~~the~~ ~~house~~
nothing about the children of
of this now marriage of the now
married a few time

Our grandfather Pasieth was
the son of Jonathan Lawrence
his youngest child - who after
his mother's death resided
for by his sister Ex-prime
during his early life

My great grandfather
Jonathan died in England
as in Nouvelle when the
English government had
given him a tract of land
for services rendered in the
French & Indian war
He was from
Albany France

The following is a letter written by Will Parsons to Porter J. Lawrence in regard to the possible heirship to the Lawrence/Townley Estates, dated November 8, 1885. Copies of the hand written letter have been made and I will include those copies in the information that has been accumulated. Any parenthetical remarks in the body of the letter are my comments which may clarify or personalize the word or statements.

RLJ

Cleveland, O. Nov. 8/85

Dear Uncle Porter,

I have not heard from you for some time, not since I wrote last. We expected a call from you this summer, and also that we should have another struggle with the fish in Lake Erie. We read an account of the meeting of the Lawrence/Townley heirs in Detroit, in a Detroit paper sent me by Mr. Harkness, a son of a Mr. Harkness who attended the meeting as one of the heirs. (copies of those reports appeared in the Detroit Free Press and are included in the information section. I believe they are self explanatory and dealt primarily with an organized way to approach the claim on heirship of the English property.)

A Mr. Jaques living in this town that I am well-acquainted recently returned from the East where he went to bury his mother who was a Lawrence and claimed to be one of the heirs. He has frequently, he tells me, within the last few months written her to get what information he could in relation to her genealogy, but of late years and old age had so impaired her memory that she could tell him nothing about it. He brought with him from the East a work brought out by a John Lawrence covering 191 pages and containing the genealogy of the Lawrences. I do not know whether you have ever seen it, but as you have never mentioned it, suppose you have not seen it- The work was brought out in 1857 and not many of them were published and put in circulation. I should like to have you look at (it) but as I have promised to return it in a day or two as Mr. Jaques has to return it to the owner, John Lawrence, I have done the next best thing-made an abstract from it. The owner considers himself a Lawrence/Townley heir. Should the matter ever be settled he will trip up on it as I will explain further on. And now to the condensed abstract I send you-

On the 14th page, written last where it should have been written first, is a short account of Archbishop Lawrence, who it appears, was an Italian and died in 916 (A.D.), nearly 1,000 years ago. On page 1 we have Robert Lawrence of Lancashire, born about 1150 and knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall in 1191. Who he sprung from cannot say unless it was from the 1st Lawrence who was the Archbishop of Canterbury, but as he was a monk of the church of Rome, and as monks don't marry, I would be afraid to suggest that Sir Robert of Ashton Hall sprung from him as all of the Lawrences in America and England evidently sprung from Sir Robert. Still, I don't think that your feelings would be much wounded and lacerated even if you ancestor, the monk, did raise a few children out of wedlock. Sue (wife of Will Parsons-Susan Jane Jackson, a sister of John A. Jackson thus a daughter of the Asahel Hyde Jackson/Phoebe Sherman Lawrence union) says she don't feel the least mad over it, even if such was the case. As it must have occurred about 1,000 years ago. Please break the news gently to mother Jackson (Phoebe Lawrence) the possibility of her ancestor being the monk Laurentius and that he died only a short time ago- about 1,000 years.

Covering pages 1, 2, and 3, we have the names in direct line of descent, from Sir Robert of Ashton Hall to Henry Lawrence of the 16th generation. Now all the Lawrences of 15 generations had other sons and daughters besides those mentioned, who became heads of families, who, each in turn had their descendants and formed branches of the genealogical tree.

Henry of the 16th generation emigrated to America with his son John the founder apparently of the American Lawrences. The genealogy is incomplete but as correct of course as could be got at the time the work was brought out.

The 8th generation must be very incomplete as to numbers for it should be at least 4 or 5 times as large as the 7th generation. I notice in the book and invitation for all Lawrences to send information in relation to their families and I think from that that a later and enlarged edition of the work must have been published years ago but the publication of these kinds of works are always limited. I further think that the original design of the work was in reference to the claim on the Lawrence/Townley Estate for I see a notation that

Isaac Lawrence of Gardiner, Maine interested himself in the matter and went to England in behalf of claimants and, came back again- Pages 4 to 13 embraces the generations of Lawrences as far as could be got at the time. The first names are all Lawrences, male and female. The last names are the wives and husbands of the Lawrences, male and female. I have only written the given names except in a few places where I have written L- which stand for Lawrence. So far no heads of families show 308-. The first generation commencing with John of Watertown being the father of the 2nd generation- the 2nd generation fathers and mothers of the 3rd generation and so on. You will see I have written the month of birth of each Lawrence in the margin. I think the 7th generation would be your generation. Examine it closely, see if you can recognize an names and places of residence of any of them that you are familiar with and if you can claim relationship to them, or any of them. If you can claim any of them, you may consider yourself and family out on the Lawrence/Townley claim.

Now to more fully explain. John Lawrence of Watertown was born in 1609. His first wife was Elizabeth. His second wife, Susanna, daughter of William Batchelder of Charlestown. He died in Groton (Connecticut) July 11, 1667. Now John Lawrence married Mary Townley in 1695 [change the chart sent you from 1639 to 1693]. Two children John and Jonathan were born [twins] in 1695. These two children survived him, so as the older of the twins, John, died at the age of 2 years. John Lawrence, the father must have died between 1695 and 1697, Now John Lawrence who married Mary Townley was perhaps not born within the 75 years of the time of John Lawrence of Watertown who died in 1667 and did not marry Mary Townley till 28 years had elapsed after the death of John Lawrence of Watertown. I am persuaded in my own mind that but a few of the Lawrences are acquainted with these facts, and are perhaps paying in money when they could not possibly establish a claim if they sprung from John Lawrence of Watertown. To establish a claim when that estate is divided[and there is no doubt it will be] it must be shown that every Lawrence making the claim must have Mary Townley blood in his veins, as the estate comes from the Townley side of the house. I see at the meeting in Detroit the name of Townley as a claimant. Sir Richard Townley's stock on the male side died out. The descendants of the Townleys, who were perhaps brothers or cousins or connections of Sir Richard Townley, cannot establish a claim any more than anybody else. The claimant must have Mary Townley's blood in them, except in the case of all the Townley/Lawrence dying out, then the heirship would go back to the nearest blood relative of Mary Townley and then down the line of descent again to the surviving heirs. I hope you will find in this list of names sent you no relatives, for, if you do, your cake is dough as far as any claim to the Townley estate is concerned. This genealogy is a revelation to me as I suppose it will be to you if you did not know it before. I feel sure I am correct in the view I have taken on this matter.

I send you on page 15 the copy of the opinion of Sir William H. G. Collis- solicitor of the high court of Chancery, Ireland, in relation to the claim of William T. Lawrence to the entailed property. Also the opinion of Messrs. Blake, Kear and Boyd, given in 1876. This I got from Mr. Clark recently. He is the holder of \$10,000 of the Lawrence/Townley bonds. His claim, when acknowledged and made good, will bring up with it the claims of the balance of the claimants that can be proven. I shall do what I can to dig for more information. In the meantime, I should like to hear from you. With love to all believe me.

Yours sincerely,

Will Parsons

P.S. I should like to hear from you as soon as you get time.

Cleveland O. Nov 8/85

Dear Uncle Peter,

I have not heard from you for some time, not since I wrote last. We expected a call from you this summer, and also that we should have another struggle with the fish in Lake Erie. We read an account of the meeting of the Laurence Torrnley heirs in Detroit, in a Detroit paper lent me by Mr. Harkness, a son of a Mr. Harkness who attended the meeting as one of the heirs.

A Mr. Jaques living in this town, Philadelphia well acquainted with recently returned from the East where he went to bury his mother, who was a Lawrence, but ~~claimed~~ ~~to be~~ one of the heirs. He has frequently, he tells me within the last few months written her to get ^{what} information he could in relation to her genealogy, but of late years old age had so impaired her memory that she could tell him nothing about it. He brought with him from the East a work brought out by John Lawrence Corning '91 Pages and containing the genealogy of the Laurences. I do not know whether you have ever seen it.

but as you have never mentioned it,
suppose you have not seen it - The work
was brought out in 1857 - and not
many of them were published and
put in circulation - I should like to
send it to you to look at but as I have
promised to return it in a day or two,
as Mr. Jaques has to return it to the owner
John G. Lawrence, - I have done the next
best thing made an abstract from it.
The owner considers himself a Lawrence
Tornelay heir - Should the matter ever
be settled he will trip up on it, as I
will explain further on. ~~I believe~~

and now to the Condensed abstract
I send you - On the 14th page,
written last when it should have been
written first, is a short account of ~~Arch~~ Bishop
Lawrence, who it appears was an Italian,
and died in 916 - Nearly 1000 years
ago - On page 1. We have Robert Lawrence
of Lancashire, born about 1150 - and
Knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall in
1191 - Who he sprung from, Can not say,
unless it was from the 1st Lawrence
who was Archbishop of Canterbury, but
as he was a monk of the church
of Rome, and as monks don't marry

I would be afraid to suggest that
Sir Robert of Ashton Hall sprung from him,
as ~~all~~ the Laurences in America and England
evidently sprung from Sir Robert - Still
I do not think that your feelings would
be much wounded and lacerated even ^{if} your
ancestor - the monk did raise a few
children out of wed-lock - Sue says
she don't feel the least mad ~~over~~
over it, even if such was the
case, as it must have occurred
about 1000 years ago - Please break
the news gently to mother Jackson the
possibility of her ancestor being the
monk Laurentius and that he died
only a short-time ago, about 1000 years.

Covering pages 1 - 2 & 3 we ^{have} the names
in a direct line of descent - from
Sir Robert of Ashton Hall to
Henry Lawrence of the 16th generation.
Now all the Laurences in the 16th generation
had other sons and daughters besides
those mentioned, ~~who~~ became heads
of families, who, each in turn ~~formed~~
their descendants and formed
branches of the genealogical tree -
Henry of the 16th generation
emigrated to America with his

son John the founder (apparently)
of the American Lawrences -

The genealogy is incomplete ~~of course~~
but as correct of course as could
be got at, at the time the work
was brought out - The 8th generation
must be very incomplete as to numbers
for it should be at least 4 or 5
times as large as the 7th generation.
I notice in the book an invitation
for all Lawrences to send information
in relation to their families and
I think from that, that a later and
enlarged edition of the work
must have been published
years ago, - but the publication
of these kind of works are always
limited - I further think that
the original design of the work
was in reference to the claim on
the Lawrence Powneley Estate, for
I see a notation that Isaac
Lawrence of Gardiner, Maine
~~interested~~ ^{himself} in the matter and
went to England in behalf of
claimants and — Came back
again - Pages 4 to 13 embrace
the generations of Lawrences as far

as could be got at the time -
The first names are all Laurences
male & females - The last names
are the wives and husbands of
the Laurences male and female,
I have only written the given names
except in a few places where I have
written L - which stands for Laurence.
So far the no of heads of families
shows 308 - The 1st generation ^{commencing}
with John of Watertown being Father
of the 2nd generation - The 2nd generation
fathers & mothers of 3rd generation and
so on - You will see I have
written the ^{month} ~~date~~ of birth of each
Laurence in the margin - I think
the 7th generation would be your
generation - Examine it closely,
see if you can recognise any
names and places of residences
of any of them that you are
familiar with, and if you
can claim relationship with
them or any of them - If you
can claim any relationship with
any of them, you may consider
yourself and family out-on
the Laurence Torndley claim.

Now - to more fully explain -
John Lawrence of Watertown
was born in 1609 - his 1st wife
was Elizabeth - 2nd wife
Susanna daughter of Wm Batchelder
of Charlestown - He died in ^{England} ~~England~~
July 11th 1667 - Now John Lawrence
~~who married Mary Tonney~~ ^{who married Mary Tonney}
~~born it must have been between~~
in 1693 (Change the chart seat - you, from
1639 to 1693) - Two children John
& Jonathan were born (twins) in
1695 - These 2 children survived
him, so as the older of the twins, John
died at the age of 2 years - John L.
the father must have died ~~between~~
1695 & 1697 - Now John L. who
married Mary T. was perhaps not
born within 75 years of the time of
John L. of Watertown who died in
1667 - and did not marry Mary Tonney
till 28 years had elapsed after the
death of J. L. of Watertown - I am
persuaded in my own mind that
but few of the Laurences are acquainted
with these facts, and are perhaps paying
in money when they could not possibly
establish a claim if they sprung from

John L. of Watertown - To establish
a claim when that estate is divided,
(and there is no doubt but that it
will be) it must be shown that
every Lawrence making the claim
must have Mary Torneley blood in
his veins, as the Estate comes from
the Torneley side of the house - I see
at the meeting of Detroit the name
of Torneley as a claimant - Sir Richard
Torneley stock on the male side died
out - The descendants of Torneleys who
were perhaps brothers or Cousins or
Connections of Sir R. Torneley cannot
establish a claim any more than
any body else, the claimant - must
have Mary T. blood in them, Except
in the case of all the Torneley Laurences
dying out, then the heirship would
go back to the nearest blood relative
of Mary T., and then down the line
of descent again to the surviving heir.
I hope you will find in this list
of names sent you, no relatives,
for if you do, your cake is dough
as far as any claim to the Torneley
estate is concerned - This genealogy
is a revelation to me as I suppose

it will be to you, if you did not know of it before -- I feel sure I am correct in the view I have taken of this matter -

I send you on page 15 the ^{copy of the} opinion of Sir Wm St. L. Collis - Solicitor of the High Court of Chancery, Ireland, in relation to the Claim of William F. Lawrence to the Entailed Property, also the opinion of Messrs Blake Kear & Boyd, given in 1876 - this I got through Mr. Clark recently - He is the holder of \$10,000.⁰⁰ of the Lawrence Torndyke bonds - His claim when acknowledged and made good, will bring up with it the claims of the balance of the claimants that can be proven -

I shall do what I can to dig for more information. In the mean time I should like to hear from you - With love to all believe me

Yours Sincerely
Will. Parsons.

P.S. I should like to hear from you as soon as you get time

Letter from Mr. George W. Langdon, Baraboo, WI. To Porter J. Lawrence

What Mrs. Lowe says the Vermont people say Experience L. took care of Jonathan's children until her father married Hannah Robbins in 1738. But the question is, who was mother of those children and who were they? Mary, Josiah, Jacob, John and Samuel seems what the Vermont people say. Experience is given as the eldest. But they say Josiah was born in 1743 and some say that Jonathan married Hannah Ratting in 1738/ a Jonathan _____ marry a Hannah Robbins as _____ in Walpool a Record of that marriage, also saw this in the Town Book. E. Daniel Robbins? Took Hannah Lawrence and daughter off of the Town in August 1777. Where could the other children have been then? John Lawrence married February 9th, 1769. He was born January 17th, 1748. He was died October 27th, 1825, on Thursday 40 minutes past 12 at noon, age 78 years, 7 months, and 25 days. Tex(t) 39 x 90 Psalms 2 part tex(t) 4 chapter of Proverbs 7th verse. Mother Lawrence died February 28th, 1836 at 7 o'clock in the morning. Tex(t) 1st Thessalonians 4th chapter beginning at the 13th verse and to the end of the chapter. Attended by Elder Willis

But Mrs Lore says

The Overmant People say
Elihu Wood, was of Jonathan's stock
until his father married Hannah Robbins
in 1788. But the question is who was
mother of these children & who were
they Mary, Sarah Jacob, John,
& Samuel, seems to be what the
overmant people say as Eliza was
is given as the eldest, but the
say Jacob was born 1778 and goes
after say that Jonathan married Hannah
Robbins in 1788 & Jonathan (p)
Married Hannah Robbins as I saw
in Wood's record of that
marriage, also saw this in the
Town Book. E Daniel Robbins took
Hannah's name & daughter's
(p) of the town in August
1778) When would the other
children of them then

Jonathan's first wife was
Elizabeth Butler, when as when
married & then got to leave
the must have (p) 1801 long
after Joseph's death was 1 year
after his death 1784 is the mother
of father to Hannah Robbins in
1788. Or the relation of the
Jacob's brother & sister was
1801. When But the must
of them when the youngest
Joseph was 1801 the
youngest - the married Mary
Jacob in 1801. When
March 18, 1801 Mary 23 old

George W. Taylor
Barabae (Mrs)

Johan Larsen married Feb¹⁴ 1829

She was born Jan¹⁷ 1748

he was Born Oct²⁷ 1825
on Thursday 30 minutes past 12
at Haan age 18 years 3 months &
25 days Dec 30 90 Being 2 past
Dec 4 Chaplet of Rewards & verse

Mother Larsen Died Feb²⁸
1835 at 7 O'clock in the morning
Dec 1st theaalonians 4 Chaplet
Beginning at the 13 verses to
the end of the Chaplet
Attended By Elders With

Monkton Ridge Jan. 1886
Mr. Lawrence

(Dear Sir: I have no
doubt But we are Cousins though distant
as regards my knowledge of the Birth
of the first Children of Johnathan Lawrence
I know nothing (Josiah) he was my great
Grandfather he was 67 years old at his death
which occurred (1802) I have no knowledge
separately who his Mother was she having
died when (Josiah) was a young Boy,
Mrs. Low of Indianapolis was here last Sept.
She told me, that they told her when
in Canada that Johnathan married
for his first wife Elizabeth Butrick
a widow I have also been informed
that (she) was a Lawrence before
she married (Mr Butrick) after Johnathan
first wife died, (Experience) was his father
House-keeper until the second marriage
About the year (1800) Experience came
with Josiah Lawrence & his wife, my
Father said that (Experience) married a
Mrs (Keep) Josiah settled at or near Fishkill
(I think there could be information
obtained there) John Lawrence of Bennington
& my Father were first Cousins, if my
Father was living he would be (99) years
old he was Born April 11th 1786 he told

Monkton Ridge, VT. January 1886
Mr. Lawrence

Dear Sir I have no doubt but we are cousins though distant as regards my knowledge of the birth of the first children of Jonathan Lawrence, I know nothing. Josiah, he was my great grandfather he was 67 years old at his death which occurred in 1802. I have no knowledge definitely who his mother was, she having died when Josiah was a young boy. Mrs. Low of Indianapolis was here last September, she told me that they told her when in Canada that Jonathan married for his first wife Elizabeth Butrick, a widow. I have also been informed that she was a Lawrence before she married Mr. Butrick. After Jonathan's first wife died, Experience was her father's housekeeper until the second marriage about the year 1800 Experience came with Josiah Lawrence and his wife. My father said that Experience married a Mr. Keep. Josiah settled at or near Fishkill. I think there could be information obtained there. John Lawrence of Bennington and my father were first cousins. If my father was living, he would be 99 years old. He was born April 11th, 1786. He told me that his great grandfather Jonathan Lawrence died a good many years before he (my father) was born and that Jonathan went back to England and died there. Father told me this some 35 years ago. As I understand it, Jonathan and son Henry came to Bennington. I had supposed that John the brother of Josiah settled at Fishkill (N.Y.) the same as Jacob. I don't know of any that claim descent from John Lawrence that lived and died in Bennington except the wife of S. S. Rich (?) of Malone, N. Y. I am the daughter of Josiah Mumford. Josiah Mumford was the son of Mary Lawrence. Mary Lawrence Mumford was the daughter of Josiah Lawrence, Josiah Lawrence was the son of Jonathan Lawrence. Jonathan Lawrence was a sea captain. John Lawrence of Bennington is the son of Solomon Lawrence, the youngest child of Josiah Lawrence. You wished to know my age. I am 63 years old. I was born October 19th, 1822. Josiah Lawrence birth must have been in 1785, 151 years ago the present year as he was 67 when he died in 1802. I can't tell which were the older, Samuel Lawrence or Josiah Lawrence I think I have given you all the information that I can. Hoping to hear from you again, truly your cousin, A. W. Day

P.S. I am not personally acquainted with John Lawrence of Bennington, but we are cousins.

me that his great grandfather Johnathan
Lawrence lived a good many years before
(he) was born & that Johnathan went
back to England & died there, Father
told me this some (35) years ago as he
understand it Johnathan (senr) came
to Bennington. I had supposed that
John the brother of Josiah settled at
Fishkill the same as Jacob, I don't know
of any that claim descent from John Lawrence
that lived & died at Bennington except
the wife of S. S. Rich of Malone (N.Y.) I am
the daughter of Josiah Mumpord Josiah Mumpord
was the son of Mary Lawrence. Mary
Lawrence Mumpord was the daughter
of Josiah Lawrence, Josiah Lawrence was

Letter from Mrs.
A. W. Fay Monkton
Wedge St

the son of Johnathan Laurens Johnathan
was a Sea Captain, John Laurens of
Bennington is son of Solomon Laurens
the youngest child of Josiah Laurens
you wish to know My age I am 63
years old I was Born Oct. 19th 1822
Josiah Laurens Birth must have been
in 1735, 151 years ago the present year as he
was 67 when he died in 1802 I cant tell who
were the Older Samuel, S. or, Joseph. I think I have
given you all the information that I can hoping
to hear from you again, Truly your Cousin
P. S. I am not personally acquainted
with John Laurens of Bennington
But we are Cousins

A. W. Fay

Manhattan Ridge Feb 8th 1886

Mr Lawrence

Respected Cousin

it was with pleasure that I read
& received your last, & the report & many
thanks for the favor, I have mailed it to
Mr John Lawrence of Bennington with a
request to have him mail it to Mrs B
Bortwick it is to be sent to Mrs Almon Lawrence
of Manhattan Mrs Almon Lawrence is the
old gentleman that you have referred to he
will be (82) I do not know if he is the son of David
Lawrence David Lawrence was the son of Josiah
Lawrence, Mr Almon Lawrence can't give
me more information than you have
now already obtained & he wishes me to
ask you if the record which you have
is taken from actual records or are they taken
from letters I infer from your letter that you have
no record except of the family of Johnathan Lawrence
By the second marriage the second wife was Hannah
Robbins she was my great grand father's
step mother, I understand by the report
that any one not belonging to the association
will be counted out unless they can prove
beyond a doubt that they are descendants
of Mary Towne if that be the case than
with others will have a poor chance, ~~their~~
are ^{are} ^{near that stand} ⁱⁿ the same relation to
Mary Towne that you so that we unable to

Letter from Mrs
Anna W Day
Manhattan Ridge NY

Monkton Ridge, VT. February 8th 1886

Mr. Lawrence, Respected cousin

It was with pleasure that I read and received your last and the report. Many thanks for the favor. I have mailed it to Mr. John Lawrence of Bennington with a request to have him mail it to Mrs Bostwick. It is to be sent to Mr. Almon Lawrence of Monkton. Mr. Almon Lawrence is the old gentleman that you have referred to. He will be 82 next May. He is the son of Diah Lawrence. Diah Lawrence was the son of Josiah Lawrence. Mr. Almon Lawrence can't give any information than you have now already obtained and he wishes me to ask you if the record you which you have is taken from actual records or are they from letters. I infer from your letter that you have no record except of the family of Jonathan Lawrence by the second marriage. The second wife was Hannah Robbins. She was my great grandfather's step-mother. I understand by the report that anyone not belonging to the association will be counted out unless they can prove beyond a doubt that they are descendants of Mary Townley. If that be the case, then I with others will have a poor chance. There are some here that stand in the same relation to Mary Townley that you (do) so that are unable to help in the matter in the least. Now what is the best course for us to pursue is a query to me. There are some here that are wealthy. They will never spend anything in this enterprise. They believe it is all moonshine! But suppose it is if it had not been agitated we should never have known how many relations we have or where they are. My great grandfather, Josiah Lawrence married Mary Branch a widow in Norwich, Connecticut, March 1761. I think my father said that his grandfather, Josiah Lawrence, was born in Massachusetts but could not tell in what place. Josiah, my great grandfather lived in Norwich several years. His three first children was born there. He removed from there to Woodford, Vermont. After a period of time he settled in Bennington, Vermont. The three children born in Norwich was Mary, my grandmother, Josiah Jr. And Lucy. My grandfather Mumford married his wife Mary Lawrence in Bennington. Five of those children were born there. He came to Monkton in the year 1791. My father was then 5 years old. And there were two of my grandmother's brothers came and settled here. Josiah Jr. And Diah, that is Almon Lawrence's father, about the year 1800. Experience came here in company with her brother Josiah and wife to visit the friends in this place. My father was telling me of some ocean voyage of hers and said that she has no fears when on the ocean as she was accustomed to the ocean. And that her father was a sea captain. He said that she was the daughter of Jonathan Lawrence and was her father's housekeeper until her father married Hannah Robbing. But he did not know who was the mother of Experience and Josiah and how can it be determined who was the first wife of Jonathan Lawrence. If tradition is excepted then there may be some chance for us that are descendants of the first marriage. Mrs. Brown of Gowanda, N.Y. his wife claims descent from William Lawrence, the youngest brother of Josiah. I must close for this time hoping to hear from you again.

Respectfully yours

Anna W. Day

help in the matter in the least - Now
what is the best course for us to pursue
is a query to me that are some here
that are well they will some spend
anything in this Enterprise they believe
it to be all moonshine; But suppose
it is if it had not been agitated we
should some have known how many
relations we have or where they are my
great grand father (Jorish) (Lawren)
Married Mary Branch a widow in
Dorwich Conn. March (1761) I think my
Father said that his grand father Jorish
Lawren. was Born in Mass. But
could not tell in what place, Jorish
my G.G. Father, Lived in Dorwich several
years, his three first children was Born there
he removed from there to Woodford Vt., after
a period of time he settled in Bennington Vt.
after three children Born in Dorwich was
Mary my grandmother, Jorish Jr & Lucy.
My grand father Mumpord married his
wife Mary Lawren in Bennington, 5 of their
children were Born there he then came to

as she was accustomed to the Creole
that her Father was a sea Captain he
said that she was the daughter of
Jonathas Lawrence & was her Father
Housekeeper untill her Father married
Hannah Rabbin But he did not know
who was the mother of Experien & Josiah
& how can it be determined who was the
first wife of Jonathas Lawrence, if tradition
is excepted than there may be some claim
for us that are descendants of the first mar-
riage for it seems one of the second ^{or} marriage
Mrs Brown of Concorda City, his wife
monoton in the year (1791) my Father was then
5 years old, & there were two of my mothers Br-
thers came & settled near Josiah Jr, & Dick that
is Almon Lawrence Father, about the year (1800)
Experien came here in company with his Brother
Josiah & wife to visit the friends in this place
my Father was telling of some Creole voice of hers
& said that she had 80 years when on the Creole

Monkton in the year (1791) my Father was then
5 years old, & there were two of my Grandmother's Br-
thers came & settled near Jarvis Jr, & Dick that
is Almon Lawrence Father, about the year (1800)
Experein came here in Company with his Brother
Jarvis & wife to visit the friends in this place
my Father was telling of some Deien voice of hers
& said that she had so fears when on the Deien

as she was accustomed to the Coen
that her Father was a sea Captain he
said that she was the Daughter of
Jonathas Lawrence & was her Father
Housekeeper untill her Father married
Hannah Ralling But he did not know
who was the Mother of Experience & Josiah
& how can it be determined who was the
first wife of Jonathas Lawrence, if tradition
is Excepted than there may Be some Claims
for us that are descendants of the first Mar-
-riage you it seems one of the second ^{Mar}riage
Mrs Brown of Concord N.H. his wife
Claims descent from William Lawrence the
youngest Brother of Josiah & must Close
for this time hoping to hear from you
again respectfully Yours

Anna M. Day

Copied By P. J. Lawrence
Feb, 18th 1886

THE CONSOLIDATED
Lawrence-Chase-Towneley Association
OF AMERICA

Executive:

President: WM. NORTHCOTE GEARE.
Vice-Pres.:—PROFESSOR VERNON.
Secretary:—STURGEON STEWART.

Trustees:

HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q.C., EX-VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ONT.
ERASTUS WIMAN, ESQ., (DUN, WIMAN & CO.,) NEW YORK
WM. H. HOWLAND, ESQ., MAYOR OF TORONTO.

Treasurer:—JOHN R. BARBER, PRES. TORONTO PAPER CO.

Canadian Solicitors:—BLAKE, LASH, CASSELS AND HOLMAN, TORONTO.

English Solicitors:—BISCHOFF, POMPOS, FOX & CO., LONDON, ENGLAND.

HEAD OFFICE: 21 Yonge Street Arcade,

Toronto.

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wanted \$100,000. to complete it. it would be raised within a week: but this for the benefit of all the claimants we are debarred from now giving.

No doubt this whole matter will be soon settled by compromise—This Association has proofs of such vital importance that we can make our own terms: terms that cannot fail of being beneficial & satisfactory to every claimant. Thus you will see, we cannot endanger this golden opportunity.

Perhaps I may as well submit a few questions for you to seriously consider:

Why has this Association (which has only been in operation a little over a year) received from that opposition in England, who are wrongfully receiving the revenues of all these estates, every effort in their power to put us down & stop us?

Have they ever directed a blow towards any other Association although some investigating 10 times as long & having spent 100 times as much money?

Is it not, that no previous Association, have ever had any knowledge in the right direction, or of that moment that they have ever cared any ^{thing} for?

On the contrary: have they not known from our commencement that this Association, has facts & proofs that

THE CONSOLIDATED *Lawrence-Chase-Towneley Association* OF AMERICA

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Toronto,

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can stop them from ever getting another dollar from them, besides making them disgorge every dollar they have fraudulently received for the last 16 years?

If this is now compromised, will not this important view be retained & debased from those who do not join the Association?

Will they not be left in such a position that they will not get it?

Must not this Association, in a division, deal only with those who have joined this Association and got certificates of Membership?

Under these circumstances is it not the duty of all to join this Association; and all that are so well able, to assist financially those who are so honestly & ably working for their interests?

Why has this Association, enlisted & retained the interest & assistance of gentlemen of such high ~~worldwide~~ world-wide reputation for honesty, integrity, and ability, compared with any previous enterprise?

Why has one Association, that has been prosecuting their financial interest for 16 years, spending a vast amount of money; determined that if ever they got their own, that they must join this Association, which they have done two weeks ago?

Yours Most Respectfully
William Northcote Geare, Pres.

Shall send you a duplicate of volume & volume of the Association of the City of St. George's, London, & a similar letter of information known.

The following article appearing in the Utica, New York Morning Herald dated January 22, 1894, was sent to me by Susan Peters, Ontario, Canada June, 2002.

THE LAWRENCE/TOWNLEY ESTATE

“There appears to have been a Scandalous Fraud”

Before the queen's bench in London last week, a case was on trial in which the subscribers to the Lawrence/Townley estate fund in this vicinity- their heirs or assigns- will be interested. The question before the court was whether Solicitor Thomas should give a bill of costs for the expenditures of over \$75,000 entrusted to him by J. F. Jaques. It incidentally appeared that Jaques had gone to England in 1886 with \$80,000 in money and a claim of one Lawrence of Troy to the Townley estates and \$70,000,000 which had accumulated in the English treasury. It appears suit was actually entered for the recovery of the estate, but no effort apparently was made to get the 70 millions. Thomas, the solicitor, carried the case up to the House of Lords, and it was dually dismissed as frivolous and vexatious. Revelations in the case just tried led Justice Matthews to say:

“There appears to have been a scandalous fraud.” Justice Collins declared: “There is a question whether Jaques is entitled to the assistance of this court. That depends on whether Jaques was a party to a gross fraud admitted by Thomas to have been carried out by him. The master has investigated the matter and I do not disagree with his finding. I could not take upon myself to say that Jaques is fraudulent, but I am not certain that he is clear of fraud and I should be sorry by my judgment to place any obstruction in the way of persons who may have any right as against Jaques. It must not be thought that this court has absolved Jaques from all suspicion of fraudulently combining with Thomas.”

A dispatch to the New York Sun says: “Jaques is living in Denhigh place, Pimlico, a shabby-genteel quarter of London. He says he was colonel of the 730th Illinois volunteers during the war, and was afterward, an official in the post office in Washington. His principal hope on earth now is that the English solicitor Thomas shall be made to disgorge some of the money which Jaques has paid him. Here is the colonel's statement:

"I was asked to go into the case by Dr. Webb of Utica, New York, a friend of mine. He collected the pedigree proofs of marriage and everything to establish a claim to the Townley estates, obtained the opinion of eminent counsel- Blake, Curran and Boyd of Toronto, and others- and collected from many persons money with which to carry on litigation. Our documents show that John Lawrence married Mary Townley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley, in 1695. In 1807 there was a failure of male issue in the Townley family, and the succession we claim should have gone to Mary Townley's descendants. (Dow Haiser) Lawrence, her great, great grandson, the present claimant, is a poor _____ in Troy. The Townley estate is in the possession of Lord Torreys, now Earl of Abingdon, who married a Townley nominally in possession. The estate is of enormous value. It includes a large part of the manufacturing town of Burnley and several coal mines. The statute of limitations will put our case out of court unless we can prove there was fraud in obtaining the property which is what we propose to do. When I came to England six years ago, we employed Howell Thomas, an English Solicitor. He took all the papers, retained counsel, etc. The case was dismissed by the House of Lords two years ago and we failed to obtain permission to begin another suit but the language of the court led us to believe we might succeed another time. But in the meantime Thomas has obtained \$75,000 from us and refused an accounting. This is what we are trying to obtain. He has seven addresses within six months and we do not know where he is now. He has many important papers. Thomas informed me that the sum of \$70,000,000 accumulated income of the estate was in the treasury. I have not been able to ascertain that yet. To all this it may be added that the....

January 22, 1894.

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNELEY CASE.

"There appears to have been a scandalous fraud."

Before the queen's bench in London, last week, a case was on trial in which the subscribers to the Lawrence-Towneley estate fund in this vicinity—their heirs or assigns—will be interested.

The question before the court was whether Solicitor Thomas should give a bill of costs for the expenditure of over \$75,000 intrusted to him by J. F. Jacques. It incidentally appeared that Jacques had gone to England in 1886 with \$80,000 in money and a claim of one Lawrence of Troy to the Towneley estates and \$70,000,000 which had accumulated in the English treasury. It appears that he actually entered for the recovery of the estate, but no effort, apparently, was made to get the seventy millions. Thomas, the solicitor, carried the case up to the house of lords, and it was finally dismissed as frivolous and vexatious. Revelations in the case just tried led Justice Mathew to say:

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And Justice Collins declared:

"There is a question whether Jacques is entitled to the assistance of this court. That depends on whether Jacques was a party to a gross fraud admitted by Thomas to have been carried out by him. The master has investigated the matter. I

2
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A dispatch to the New York Sun says Jaquess is living in Denbigh place, Finsbury, a shabby-genteel quarter of London. He says he was colonel of the 73d Illinois volunteers during the war, and was afterward an official in the post-office in Washington. His principal hope on earth now is that the English collector, Thomas, shall be made to disgorge some of the money which Jaquess has paid him. Here is the colonel's statement:

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COPIED FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, DOUBLIN

Friday, February 1st, 1886

Enormous fortune lies buried in the Court of Chancery, amounting to 100,000,000 pounds, which really belongs to the people, including all classes of the community from the Peer to the Peasant. The Chancery paymaster will be only too glad to pay the money to the rightful owners if they will put in their claims. There are thousands of people walking about at the present moment who are quite unconscious of the fact that a fortune has descended to them from remote ancestors and because they have no knowledge of these ancestors they take no interest in what is really of vital importance to them. We earnestly entreat everyone to send to Messrs Cox & company, 41 Southampton Building, _____ London, and obtain their list of Christian and surnames in full of the 50,000 persons to whom all this vast wealth belong. The price is 1 shilling, 6 pence, (Postal Order) and if they find their names as those of English ancestors, they should obey the instructions it contains. A fortune may await them. Among the list of names we find the names of Lawrence, Chase, and Townley.

The Lord William Widdrington Estate, lands and mines near Newcastle as indicated on the map by a cluster of towns and villages such as Ritusin, Clayton, Williston, Stella, and Stanley. Corby Castle parish of ----- miles from Carlisle is the ancient seat of the Howard family. By the marriage of Dorothy Townley to Francis Howard and by will of said Francis Howard to his wife Dorothy, who, dying without issue, willed her entire estate to her sister Mary and her heirs in America= Townley Hall, the representation center of the Lawrence Townley Estate, is in the keeping of the English government until proper heirs in America shall prove legitimate right and title. The courts have decided in favor of the heirs of John Lawrence and Mary his wife.

Favorable legal opinion have been given upon the case by the following persons viz: Sir William H. G. Collis, English Chancery Honorable Edward Blake, Minister to Japan from Canada, Hon. Caleb Cushing, U. S. Minister, etc, Shaleilter, Wright and Wheatley, Liverpool England, M. P. Dickerson, Esq., Boston, Massachusetts and other eminent counsel in England are now engaged in the case.

Taken From the Freeman's Journal
(Dublin Monday & Tuesday Feb 1-1846)

Enormous Lottery Will Be sold in the Court of
Chancery, amounting to £100,000,000, which really
Belongs to the People, including all Classes of the Community
from the Poor to the Peer, the Chancery Pyramid will
Be only too glad to pay the money to the right holders
if they will put in their claims, There are thousands
of people working about at the present moment who
are quite unconscious of the fact that a fortune has
descended to them from remote ancestors & because
they have no knowledge of their ancestors they take no
interest in what is really of vital importance to
them, We earnestly entreat everyone to send to Messrs
Hogg & Co, 41 Southampton Buildings, Holborn London
& obtain their list of Christian & Surnames in full of
the 50,000 persons to whom all these vast wealth
Belongs, Price 18-6p (Post paid), & if they find their
names as those of any ancestors, they should oblige
the instructions it contains, A Fortune may
await them, among the list of names we
find the names of Lawrence Chase & Lowny

P. J. Lawrence Minelara Jk

The Lord William Murrington Estate
Lands & Mines near Newcastle as indicated
upon the map by the Cluster of Towns or
villages viz. - Rithum, Blayton, Millerton, Stedda
& Staulg, these Estate came into the Lounley family
by the marriage of Lady Mary Murrington to
Richard Lounley, Esq. Castle, Parish of Withenby,
6 miles from Carlisle is the ancient Seat of the
Howard family by the marriage of Donatly Lounley
to Francis Howard, & wholly will of said Francis Howard
to his wife Dorothy; who dying without issue, willed
his entire Estate to his Sister Mary & her heirs
in America; - Lounley "Hall" the representation
Center of the Laurens Lounley Estate, is in the
keeping of the English Government until proper
heirs in America shall prove legitimate rights
& title; the Courts having received in favor of
the heirs of John Laurens & Mary his
wife; -

Favorable Legal Opinion have
been given upon the Case by the
following Persons viz. - Sir William "H. J. Colles
English Chancery House, Edward Blake, Minister
to India from Canada; House, Calk, Cushing
M. S. Minerty, Esq.; Shalittle, Wright & Wheatley
Liverpool England; M. R. Dickerson Esq. Boston
Mass., ~~Attorneys~~ Eminent Counsel in England
are now engaged in the Case

Exhibit 133 by J. J. Lawrence 9/20



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Descendants of John Lawrence

Generation No. 2

2. PELEG² LAWRENCE (JOHN¹, HENRY^A, JOHN^B, JOHN^C, JOHN^D, ROBERT^E, JOHN^F, THOMAS^G, JOHN^H, NICHOLAS^I, ROBERT^J, ROBERT^K, JOHN^L, JOHN^M, JAMES^N, ROBERT^O, ROBERT^P)
48,49,50,51,52,53,54 was born 10 Jan 1646/47 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA^{55,56}, and died 14 Feb 1692/93 in Groton, Middlesex, MA. He married ELIZABETH MORSE⁵⁷ 22 Dec 1668 in Medfield/Groton, Middlesex, MA^{58,59}, daughter of JOSEPH MORSE and HANNAH PHILLIPS. She was born 01 Sep 1647^{60,61}, and died 12 Jun 1715⁶².

Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE:

Of Concord and Groton, MA; was a selectman

His wife, Elizabeth Morse, was a sister of his brother, Nathaniel's wife Sarah.

The Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Vol XVII - 1928 - p. 95 & VOL XXXI - 1958 - p. 218 show Peleg's birth date as 10, January 1647/1648. The Lineage Book of National Society Vol VI - 1916 shows birth date of 11 November 1647.

Lawrence, Peleg, 1646-1692, Groton, Mass. Served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Philip's War.

Growing in-line library, genealogy library.com, "Electronic," New England Families Genealogical and Memorial: third Series, Vol IV, 1998, " He lived in Concord during the period that Groton was abandoned during King Philip's War, but returned to his former at Groton afterward. He was selectman for two years and held various other offices, He lived on the farm now or lately owned by Samuel B. Marshall, on the Boston road."

Two other of John's sons, Peleg and Enosh lived at Groton and had families.

Early Records of Groton, pg 64;

" in groton 16 June 1681 thar is layed for Palig Loranc and ajoying too and bounding upon

the south by swan pond medow Eleuen acers and a half lauing Rome Round his medow
acordin too Town order and bounded upon other sids by the Comon

allso 8 ayte ackers and a halfe a litil distant northword and bounded on all sides by comon
land the lins being extant by marked trees and stakes

This too parsils of land ware layd by me John fflint

Recorded by me JOHN Mors, Clarke

This aboue written of Peleg Lawrances land by Agreement is by Peleg Laurance
relinquished & yeild to Mr. Hobart; March 8th 1681/2 in ye presence of ye select men"

Early Records of Groton, pg 183;

THE LANDS OF PELLEG LAWRANCE.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on the north side of Spedteckle Pond, bounded on all
poynts by the towne's comon.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on by the Cowpond Medow, bounded east by the lands
of Nathaniel Lawrance, and on all other poynts by the town's comon.

Notes for ELIZABETH MORSE:

Her sister Sarah Morse married Peleg Lawrence's brother Nathaniel.

other source incorrectly says daughter of John Morse.

Marriage Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE:

John Lawrence, Gen. Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown (1847, 1857 &
1876), pg 19, 1847 ver, In the Inventory of 1695 Daniel and Susanna are named as
children of Peleg Lawrence. He died in Groton, 1692, aged 45 years.

Children of PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE are:

6. i. MAJOR ELEAZER³ LAWRENCE, b. 28 Feb 1674/75, Groton,
Middlesex, MA; d. 09 Mar 1754, Pepperill, Middlesex, MA.
- ii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE, b. 09 Jan 1668/69, Groton, MA⁶³; d. 10 Oct
1685⁶⁴.
7. iii. SAMUEL LAWRENCE, b. 16 Oct 1671, Groton, MA; d. Mar 1711/12,
Killingly, Connecticut.
8. iv. JONATHAN LAWRENCE, b. 29 Mar 1679.
- v. ABIGAIL LAWRENCE, b. 06 Oct 1681^{65,66}.
- vi. JEREMIAH LAWRENCE, b. 03 Jan 1686/87^{67,68}; d. 26 Apr 1687.
- vii. JOSEPH LAWRENCE, b. 12 Jun 1688, Groton, MA^{69,70,71}.

Notes for JOSEPH LAWRENCE:

Went to Connecticut before 1712 and settled in Plainfield

viii. DANIEL LAWRENCE⁷².

ix. SUSANNA LAWRENCE⁷³, m. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 1710⁷⁴.

Notes for SUSANNA LAWRENCE:
named in father's will

3. DEACON NATHANIEL² LAWRENCE (JOHN¹, HENRY^A, JOHN^B, JOHN^C, JOHN^D, ROBERT^E, JOHN^F, THOMAS^G, JOHN^H, NICHOLAS^I, ROBERT^J, ROBERT^K, JOHN^L, JOHN^M, JAMES^N, ROBERT^O, ROBERT^P)^{75,76} was born 15 Oct 1639 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA^{77,78,79}, and died 14 Apr 1724 in Lexington, Ma^{80,81}. He married (1) SARAH MORSE 13 Mar 1660/61 in Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸², daughter of JOSEPH MORSE and HANNAH PHILLIPS. She was born 16 Jul 1643⁸³, and died 29 Aug 1681^{84,85}. He married (2) HANNAH(ANNA)⁸⁶ Bef. 1683. She died Aft. 14 Jan 1700/01. He married (3) SARAH 31 Oct 1695⁸⁷.

Notes for DEACON NATHANIEL LAWRENCE:

According to Daughters of the American Colonists Lineage Book Vol1 page 365, Nathaniel Lawrence (1639-1724) was ensign of militia and member of the General Court, 1692. He died in Groton, Ma.

adm. freeman 15, May 1672

American Ancestry has death in Lexington and LDS has Stoneham.

Moved in advanced years to Charlestown Farms.

Nathaniel was an original proprietor of Groton having a ten-acre right. He held various offices in the church and town, and was one of the first representatives to the General Court, under the charter of William and Mary, in the year 1693. Three of his grandsons, Thomas, William and Amos, came from Lexington to Groton to live.

Notes for SARAH MORSE:

Her sister Elizabeth Morse married Nathaniel Lawrence's brother Peleg.

Children of NATHANIEL LAWRENCE and SARAH MORSE are:

- i. NATHANIEL³ LAWRENCE, b. 04 Apr 1661, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸⁸; d. 1737; m. (1) HANNAH RUTTER, Abt. 1682, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸⁹; m. (2) ANNA FISKE, Abt. 1689, Groton/Sudbury⁹⁰.

Notes for NATHANIEL LAWRENCE:

His father's will dated 4 Aug. 1718, proved 8 May 1724, gave Nathaniel land in Groton.

The Genealogies & Estates of Charlstown:

m. Hannah Rutter - issue

i Nathaniel b. Feb. 1677

ii Hannah, b. Apr. 26 1687

iii Mary, Oct. 16, 1690

iv Susanna a. 1691; m. Samuel Page, 1719

v Jonathan, June 14, 1696

vi Sarah, Elisha Tottingham, 1736

- ii. SARAH LAWRENCE, b. 01 Jan 1662/63, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA²¹.
- iii. HANNAH LAWRENCE, b. 03 Jul 1664, Groton, Middlesex, MA²²; m. STEPHEN HOLDEN.
- 9. iv. JOHN LAWRENCE, b. 29 Jul 1667, Groton, Middlesex, MA; d. 12 Mar 1746/47, Lexington, MA.
- v. MARY LAWRENCE, b. 03 Mar 1669/70²²; m. ZEBADIAH WHEELER.
- vi. SARAH LAWRENCE, b. 16 May 1672²²; m. SAMUEL PAGE.

Notes for SARAH LAWRENCE:

Sarah was probably the first wife of Samuel Page, who in 1714, then of South Carolina, married Sarah Sanderson. As she d. before her father, she was not mentioned in his will, but her surviving husband.

- vii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE²², b. 06 Sep 1674²²; d. 20 Oct 1675.
- viii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE²², m. ABNER HARRIS, 20 Nov 1709²³.

Notes for ELIZABETH LAWRENCE:

m. (pub in Boston, 20 Nov 1709) Abner Harris of Medford

Children of NATHANIEL LAWRENCE and HANNAH(ANNA) are:

- ix. DEBORAH³ LAWRENCE²⁴, b. 24 Mar 1682/83; m. PETER TUFTS; b. 1678.
- x. HANNAH LAWRENCE²⁵, b. 26 Apr 1687; d. 1735; m. STEPHEN HOLDEN.

Notes for STEPHEN HOLDEN:

married Samuel Holden, will identifies as dau. Hannah Houlden

- xi. MARY LAWRENCE²⁶, b. 16 Oct 1690²⁷; m. ZEBADIAH WHEELER.
- xii. JONATHAN LAWRENCE, b. 14 Jun 1696^{28,29}.

Notes for JONATHAN LAWRENCE:

John Lawrence, Gen. Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown (1847, 1857 & 1876), pg 19, ver 1849, Jonathan, b. June 14, 1696. Lived in Charlestown, and probably in Stoneham.

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Notes for SUSANNA LAWRENCE:
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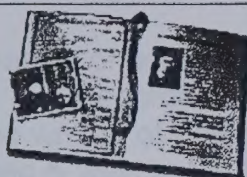
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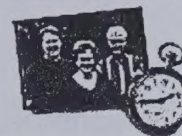
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Descendants of John Lawrence

Generation No. 2

2. PELEG² LAWRENCE (JOHN¹, HENRY^A, JOHN^B, JOHN^C, JOHN^D, ROBERT^E, JOHN^F, THOMAS^G, JOHN^H, NICHOLAS^I, ROBERT^J, ROBERT^K, JOHN^L, JOHN^M, JAMES^N, ROBERT^O, ROBERT^P)
^{48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54} was born 10 Jan 1646/47 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA^{55, 56}, and died 14 Feb 1692/93 in Groton, Middlesex, MA. He married ELIZABETH MORSE⁵⁷ 22 Dec 1668 in Medfield/Groton, Middlesex, MA^{58, 59}, daughter of JOSEPH MORSE and HANNAH PHILLIPS. She was born 01 Sep 1647^{60, 61}, and died 12 Jun 1715⁶².

Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE:

Of Concord and Groton, MA; was a selectman

His wife, Elizabeth Morse, was a sister of his brother, Nathaniel's wife Sarah.

The Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Vol XVII - 1928 - p. 95 & VOL XXXI - 1958 - p. 218 show Peleg's birth date as 10, January 1647/1648. The Lineage Book of National Society Vol VI - 1916 shows birth date of 11 November 1647.

Lawrence, Peleg, 1646-1692, Groton, Mass. Served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Philip's War.

Growing in-line library, genealogy library.com, "Electronic," New England Families Genealogical and Memorial: third Series, Vol IV, 1998, " He lived in Concord during the period that Groton was abandoned during King Philip's War, but returned to his former at Groton afterward. He was selectman for two years and held various other offices, He lived on the farm now or lately owned by Samuel B. Marshall, on the Boston road."

Two other of John's sons, Peleg and Enosh lived at Groton and had families.

Early Records of Groton, pg 64;

" in groton 16 June 1681 thar is layed for Palig Loranc and ajoying too and bounding upon

the south by swan pond meadow Eleuen acers and a half lauing Rome Round his meadow
acordin too Town order and bounded upon other sids by the Comon

allso 8 ayte ackers and a halfe a litil distant northword and bounded on all sides by comon
land the lins being extant by marked trees and stakes

This too parsils of land ware layd by me John fflint

Recorded by me JOHN Mors, Clarke

This aboue written of Peleg Lawrances land by Agreement is by Peleg Laurance
relinquished & yeild to Mr. Hobart; March 8th 1681/2 in ye presence of ye select men"

Early Records of Groton, pg 183;

THE LANDS OF PELLEG LAWRANCE.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on the north side of Spedteckle Pond, bounded on all
poynts by the towne's comon.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on by the Cowpond Meadow, bounded east by the lands
of Nathaniel Lawrance, and on all other poynts by the town's comon.

Notes for ELIZABETH MORSE:

Her sister Sarah Morse married Peleg Lawrence's brother Nathaniel.

other source incorrectly says daughter of John Morse.

Marriage Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE:

John Lawrence, Gen. Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown (1847, 1857 &
1876), pg 19, 1847 ver, In the Inventory of 1695 Daniel and Susanna are named as
children of Peleg Lawrence. He died in Groton, 1692, aged 45 years.

Children of PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE are:

6.
 - i. MAJOR ELEAZER³ LAWRENCE, b. 28 Feb 1674/75, Groton, Middlesex, MA; d. 09 Mar 1754, Pepperill, Middlesex, MA.
 - ii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE, b. 09 Jan 1668/69, Groton, MA⁶³; d. 10 Oct 1685⁶⁴.
7.
 - iii. SAMUEL LAWRENCE, b. 16 Oct 1671, Groton, MA; d. Mar 1711/12, Killingly, Connecticut.
8.
 - iv. JONATHAN LAWRENCE, b. 29 Mar 1679.
 - v. ABIGAIL LAWRENCE, b. 06 Oct 1681^{63,66}.
 - vi. JEREMIAH LAWRENCE, b. 03 Jan 1686/87^{67,68}; d. 26 Apr 1687.
 - vii. JOSEPH LAWRENCE, b. 12 Jun 1688, Groton, MA^{69,70,71}.

Notes for JOSEPH LAWRENCE:

Went to Connecticut before 1712 and settled in Plainfield

- viii. DANIEL LAWRENCE⁷².
- ix. SUSANNA LAWRENCE⁷³, m. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 1710⁷⁴.

ADDENDUM TO THE SECOND GENERATION OF AMERICAN LAWRENCES- FAMILY OF JOHN LAWRENCE-ELIZABETH

Peleg Lawrence

Born in Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts 10 January 1646(47) and died 14 February 1692(93) in Groton, Massachusetts. He married Elizabeth Morse 22 December 1668 in Medfield/Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts, daughter of Joseph Morse and Hannah Phillips. She was born 01 September, 1647 and died 12 June 1715.

Peleg's wife, Elizabeth Morse, was a sister of his brother Nathaniel's wife Sarah. The Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patroits of America, Volume XVII - 1928 - p. 95 and Volume XXXI - 1958 - p.218 show Peleg's birth date as 10 January 1647/1648. Volume VI - 1916 shows a birth date of 11 November 1647. Peleg Lawrence served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Phillip's War.

Growing in-lin library, genealogy library.com, "Electronic," New England Families Genealogical and Memorial:third Series, Vol IV, 1998, "He lived in Concord during the period that Groton was abandoned during King Phillip's War, but returned to his former at Groton Afterward. He was selectman for two years and held various other offices. He lived on the farm now or lately owned by Samuel B. Marshall, on the Boston road"

Early records of Groton, Pg 64:

"in groten 16 June 1681 thar is layed for Palig Loranc and ajoying too and bounding upon the south by swan pond meadow Eleuen acers and a half lauing Rome Round his medow acordin too Town order and bounded upon other sids by the Comon

allso 8 ayte ackers and a halfe a litil distant northword and bounded on all sides by comon land the lins being extant by marked trees and stakes

This too parsils of land ware layd by me John fflint

Recorded by me JOHN Mors, Clarke

This aboue written of Peleg Lawrances land by Agreement is by Peleg Laurance relinguished & yield to Mr. Hobart; March 8th 1681/2 in ye presence of ye select men"

Early records of Groton, pg 183

THE LANDS OF PELLEG LAWRANCE

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on the north side of Spedteckle Pond, bounded on all points by the towne's comon.
2. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on by the Cowpond Medow, bounded east by the lands of Nathaniel Lawrance, and on all other poynts by the town's comon.

Deacon Nathaniel Lawrence

Born 15 October 1639 in Watertown, Middlesex, Maine and died 14 April 1724 in Lexington Maine. He married Sarah Morse 13 March 1660 in Sudbury, Middlesex, Maine, daughter of Joseph Morse and Hannah Phillips, born 16 July 1643 and died 29 August 1681. He married Hannah (Anna) Before 1683. She died after 14 January 1700(01). He married Sarah 31 October 1695

According to Daughters of the American Colonists Lineage book, Volume 1 page 365, Nathaniel Lawrence (1639-1724) was ensign of militia and member of the General Court, 1692. He died in Groton, Maine.

American Ancestry has death listed in Lexington and the Mormons have death in Stoneham.

He moved in advanced years to Charlestown Farms.

Nathaniel was an original proprietor of Groton having a ten-acre right. He held various offices in the church and town, and was one of the first representatives to the General Court, under the charter of William and Mary, in the year 1693. Three of his grandsons, Thomas, William and Amos, came from Lexington to Groton to live.

Third Generation Descendants of Peleg Lawrence and Elizabeth Morse

1. Major Eleazer Lawrence, b. 28 February 1674/75, Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts; d. 9 March 1754, Pepperill, MA.
2. Elizabeth Lawrence, b. 9 January 1668/69, Groton, MA. d. 10 October 1685.
3. Samuel Lawrence, b. 16 October 1671, Groton, MA.; d. March 1711/12, Killingly, Connecticut.
4. Jonathan Lawrence, b. 29 March 1679
5. Abigail Lawrence, b. 6 October 1681
6. Jeremiah Lawrence, b. 3 January 1686/87; d. 26 April 1687
7. Joseph Lawrence, b. 12 June 1688, Groton, MA.
(Went to Connecticut before 1712 and settled in Plainfield)
8. (Daniel Lawrence)
9. (Susanna Lawrence, m. Joseph Williams, 1710)

The latter 2 children are listed in one source as belonging to Peleg

THIRD GENERATION, CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL LAWRENCE AND SARAH MORSE

1. Nathaniel Lawrence, b. 4 April 1661, Sudbury Middlesex, MA.; d. 1737; married (1) Hannah Rutter, About 1682, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA.; married Anna Fiske, about 1689, Groton/Sudbury.
2. Sarah Lawrence, b. 1 January 1662(63), Sudbury, Middlesex, MA.
3. Hannah Lawrence, b. 3 July 1664, Groton, Middlesex, MA. married

Stephen Holden

4. John Lawrence, b 29 July 1667, Groton, Middlesex, MA. d. 12 March 1746/47, Lexington, MA.
5. Mary Lawrence, b. 3 March 1669/70; married Zebadiah Wheeler
6. Sarah Lawrence b. 16 May 1672; married Samuel Page
7. Elizabeth Lawrence, b. 6 September 1674; d. 20 October 1675
8. Elizabeth Lawrence, Married Abner Harris, 20 November 1709

There is always a question of authenticity since the ancestry frequently depends upon other input than recorded data. This second and third generation seems to have a foundation in written records so perhaps is somewhat more likely than that given previously.

Baltimore MD.
October 3, 1886

Mr. John Lawrence
Bennington, VT.

Dear Sir:

Anything printed or said in relation to the Townley family has very little effect with me and particularly so if it comes from J. P. Janque(?) who in my judgment is thoroughly ignorant of the genealogy and past history of the Townley family. About a year ago and a half this same party stated in the same publication that Mary Townley died at the age of 12 years and that no Mary Townley ever came to this country. Since then I have discovered to the contrary and have found a portrait of the lady herself which was painted about 1714 and brought here with herself and husband. You must expect many similar saying in the public print which to my mind are in acting with a view of drawing forth a reply and profiting by what endeavor others have received. This, of course would be a cheap way to obtain information which they lack and would like to have. My course is and has been since I began to keep my own counsel and persevere strictly in the direction my search leads me. I frankly admit that this is nothing but a search of discovery, so to speak, begun in consequence of certain revelation maps to my family by one of its members in the year 1797. I believe that she knew what she talks and since I began I have met with nothing but what confirms her statement. On the other side I have done nothing of personal investigation but have devoted myself to obtaining a thorough knowledge of the history of the Townley family and if John Lawrence married Mary Townley, the estate and honor of the family belong by right to her descendants. The estate called by so many names at different (times) I take to mean Townley Hall and its accompanying property. Concerning this, there has been much said that probably was highly exaggerated, or woefully or ignorantly mistaken. I am in hopes to know sometime just what the facts are in all respects. I know now this much: in about 1805 the last lineal descendant of the Townley family died. At that time the government took some action in the matter and a great part of the Townley library was sold of Evans Auction Rooms in London. There was two sales, one occupying 10 pages, the other 7 pages. Now as nearly as I can remember without having my papers by me, it was about 1814 that Perigun (/) Edward Townley of the house of Standish, took the Townley Hall estate entail, there being no heirs. P. E. Townley married Charlotte Theresa who was the fourth daughter of Robert Drummond of Coland Hunt (?). How much of the estate he took or what (understanding?) he may have had with the English government I know not. But that he occupied Townley Hall there is no question, although he had no right nor title. If other heirs were in existence as was so in this case- If as I have said John Lawrence married Mary Townley, P.E. Townley died in 1846 Leaving him two sons, Col. Charles and Col. John Townley and whatever property he possessed at his decease went to his son Col. Charles, who was eldest in line col. Charles Townley of the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia, was born in June 1808. He was trustee of British museum and high sheriff of Lancashire in 1848. And in 1853 was elected member of Parliament from (Sliga). He married November 20th, 1836, Lady Caroline Harriet Molyner, daughter of William Phillips, 2nd Earl of Sexton by whom (he died February 8, 1866) he had three daughters: Caroline

Lawiea, who married July 10, 1858 Montague Arthur , Lar(?) married eldest son of the Earl of Abbingdon. She died September 4th 1873. Emily Frances, who married August 6th, 1868, Lord Alexander Jordan Lennox and Alice Mary who married August 2nd, 1871 Thomas Lord O'Hagan of Ireland. Col. Charles Townley left no Male heirs, he died I think in 1875 and was succeeded by his brother Col. John Townley formally of parliament from Bernley. Col. John married Lucy Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Sir Joseph Fishbourne Bart. By her he had 4 daughters, only one of whom married. Col. John died February 21st, 1877 leaving a will, a copy of which I have but not by me. He left no male heirs so that with the death of Col. John Townley in 1877 expired the last of the male lineal collateral of the Lancashire Townley Hall family as far as Great Britain concerned, but not as far as this country is concerned by a long ways. Whatever descended to the daughter of Col. Charles and Col. John Townley, they did not obtain until 1881 and what they obtained as under what conditions they obtained, I do not know. Townley Hall is at present occupied by Lord Norr---this alone you may rely upon as being correct. It can be received by the heirs of Mary Townley who married John Lawrence. This is plain common sense and moreover it is law. There ae those who say that Perigwine Edward Townley did not inherit Townley Hall nor the land surrounding it, but was only granted leave to occupy the premises and they also state that in the will of P.E. Col. Charles nd Col. John Townley there is no mention made of any of the real estate and that not one rod of it is given away. I do not know how this is simply because I have not been there to ascertain. Thus far I have spoken only of the estate, on which Townley Hall, the original home of the Townley family is located. But now I will say a few words more concerning an estate that must have been referred to by my ancestor when she made her confession in 1794. And it is this estate I have been especially interested in working for. Dorothy Townley, sister to Mary, married Francis Howard of Corby in Cumberland. She willed his entire property to his wife Dorothy, this will is on file in the Somerset House in the city of London. Mr. Les Wheeler, No. 387 Superior ST., Chicago, Illinois has seen this will. He has also seen on file in the British Museum in London, a copy of the paper containing the original and first advertisement for the heirs in America. I am informed upon authority that I cannot dispute except upon investigation I should find otherwise, that Dorothy Townley willed her entire estate to her sister Mary who had married John Lawrence. This property must originally have been extensive and from the natural accumulation would today amount to a very large sum. This undoubtedly was the property Mary Stevens refers to in 1794. Because then, the Townley Hall property did not cease to have a lineal heir until subsequent to 1800. There is another property that came into the Townley family through the marriage of Lord Widdrington, tp Richard Townley about 1710. Not having my papers at hand, I cannot quote you exact dates. Lady Mary Widdrington Estate came to her from her father, Lord William Widdrington of Northumberland. He settled a large portion of his property upon his daughter at the time of her marriage with Richard Townley, with a stipulation that her husband should have nothing whatever to do with it. These alone are matters of fact in history and can be easily proved. Many who profess to know, state that they have seen the documentary evidence by which Lady Mary (Widdrington) Townley willed a portion of her vast estate to Mary Townley, wife of John Lawrence, in America. Now since the will above mentioned, was drawn many generations have passed away and it is not to be supposed

that the government ever told any more than it was obliged to concerning this property that is a matter they would be likely to keep quiet about and the facts can be gotten at only when a descent from Mary Townley can be clearly shown. Then a claim can be made by such descendants for their right in the premises. I have been informed by authority, that is beyond question, that if there were more heirs beyond the sea at the time P. E. Townley took the Townley Hall Estate entail, and if the wills alone mentioned are as stated, that there will be no great trouble in securing legal possession of the property provided evidence of the marriage of Mary Townley to John Lawrence and the existence of her descendants can be clearly shown. One great difficulty in my work has been that there have been so many great English Estate palmed off on unsuspecting bullies(?) and that really so little is known concerning this one- even by those who have investigated it. If those interested would only stick to one thing first, find out from that second and get that straight first, they would be doing what they should have done a long time ago. Hon. Beverly Johnson while minister to England looked into this matter. He reported to the persons who told me, that there was an unclaimed Estate, the person who gave me this information is unimpeachable veracity and what I have stated can be corroborated at any time. I quote now Joyner statement "Lord John Townley Estate in 1740 and Mary Townley Lawrence Estate, never existed. This is the first time I have ever of a Lord John Townley or a Mary Townley Lawrence "estate." Whoever did hear of this I don't suppose that any particular House has been given to the property we are seeking, it may be entered upon the government books in one of half dozen different forms. But for convenience and because the people in this country do not know the correct name for the property, they are in search of, it has been called at various times, the Townley, The Townley-Chase, the Townley-Williams and the Townley-Stevens Estate. Just as it suited the fancy of those who have been interested. I have sent you the letter because I want you to understand something of what the facts are as the items I have above quoted is going the rounds of the newspapers. It will undoubtedly have a tendency to discount many ignorant of the merits of the case and who are too prone to jump at anything the newspapers report, But newspapers are very troublesome and print great deal about meaning of which they care.

Mr John Lawrence Baltimore Md
 Berminston Oct-3rd 1956
 over most
 Dear Sir

Anything printed or said in relation to the
 Lowny family has very little effect with me
 & Particular so if it comes from J P Jonins
 who in my judgement is thoroughly ignorant
 of the genealogy & past history of the Lowny
 family, about a year ago & help the same
 Port State in the same publication that
 Mary Lowny died at the age of 12 years & that so
 Miss Lowny Eng came to this County some
 than I have overview to the Contrary & have
 found a Portate of the Lady herself
 which was painted about 1714 & brought
 near with herself & husband, you must expect
 many singular things in those Bible Print
 which to my mind are in acting with a
 view of drawing people & reply & profiting
 by what Encever others have seen, this
 of course would be a cheap way to obtain
 information which they lack, & would like
 to have, my course is & has been since
 I began to keep my own counsel & person
 strictly in the direction my search bears me,
 I frankly admit that this is nothing but
 a search of discovery so to speak, began in

with the English government I know
 not But that he occupied Townly Hall
 there is no question; although he had no
 right nor title in it. Henry was in Exeter
 as well as the Barre - in as I have said John
Lawrence married Mary Townly, 18th Townly died
 in 1846 leaving two sons Col. Charles & John
Townly & whatever property he inherited
 at his decease went to his son Col. Charles,
 who was Elect in line Col. Charles Townly of
 the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia, was born
 in June 1808 he was trustee of British Mus-
aeum & high Sheriff of Lancashire in 1848 &
 in 1858 was Elector Member of Parliament
 from Sligo he married Jan, 20th 1836 Lady Car-
soline Harriette Malines, Daughter of William
Phillips 2nd Earl of Sefton by whom (who died Feb
 8th 1866) he had 3 Daughters as; Caroline Louisa
 who married July 10th 1858 Montague Arthur
Lord Morris Elect Son of the Earl of Albion
ton She died Sept. 4th 1873; Emily Frances who
 married August 6th 1863 Lord Alexander Gordon
Lennox; Alice Mary who married Augst 1871 Thos
Lord Chagan of Ireland Col. Robert Townly
 left no male heirs he died I think in 1875
 & was succeeded by his brother Col. John Townly
 Member of Parliament from Berkeley, Col.
John married Lucy Ellen youngest Daughter
 of the late Sir Joseph Dick Baines Bart. by
 her he had 4 Daughters only one whom is
 married Col. John (died Feb. 21st 1877) Townly &

Will a Copy of which of course But Not
 by me. He left no male heirs so that with
 the death of Col. John Lowry in 1877, except
 the last of the male Lineal or Collateral of
 the Lancashire Lowry Hall Family, as far as
 Great Britain is concerned But Not as far
 as this Country is concerned, By a long way,
 what ever belongs to the Daughters of Col.
 John Lowry, they did not obtain until 1877
 & what obtaining, as under what Sanction
 they obtained I do not know Lowry Hall
 is at present occupied by Lord Warrington, the
 above you may rely upon as being correct,
 it can be received by the heirs of Mary
 Lowry who married John Lawrence this
 is plain Common Sense, & Moreover - it is
 Law that those who say that P. E. Lowry
 expect in herit Lowry Hall, was the long
 Surrounding it, but was only granted them
 to occupy the Premises & they also state that
 in the Will of P. E. Lowry, Charles & Col. John
 Lowry there is no mention made of any
 Estate, & that what was of it is given
 away, I do not know how this is simply
 because

I have ^{been} ~~not~~ ^{been} ~~been~~ to ascertain, they for
 I have spoken only of the Estate on which
Lounley Hall, the original home of the
Lounley family is located; But I will
 say a few words concerning an Estate
 that much has been referred to by
 my ancestors when I made my Con-
 fession in 1794, & it is this Estate that
 I have been especially interested in wor-
 king for, Dorothy Lounley, sister to Mary
Marrick Francis Howard of Exeter in
Cumberland, she willed his entire prop-
 erty to his wife Dorothy, this will is on
 file in the Somerset House in the City
 of London, Mr. John Wheeler No. 387 Superior
St. Chicago I have seen this will he
 has also seen on file in the British
Museum in London, a copy of the paper
 containing the original & first advertisement
 for the heirs in America, I am informed
 upon authority that I cannot dispute,
 except upon investigation I should find
 otherwise that Dorothy Lounley willed his
 entire Estate to his sister Mary who
 had married John Lawrence, this prop-
 erty must originally have been extensive
 & from the natural accumulation would
 to say amount to a very large sum

This undoubtedly ⁽⁶⁾ was the property Mary
Stevens refers to in 1794, Because this
The Townly Hall property did not seem
to have a final heir until subsequent
to 1800, this is another property that
came into the Townly family through
the marriage of Lady Miffington to a
Richard Townly about 1710, not having
any papers at hand, I cannot quote
you exact facts, Lady Mary Miffington
Estate came to her from her father
Lord William Miffington of Northumberland
He settled a large portion of his property
upon his daughter at the time of his mar-
riage with Richard Townly, with a stipulation
that her husband should have nothing to
do with it, the above are matters
of fact in history & can be easily proven,
Many who profess to know, state that they
have seen the (documentary Evidence by which
Lady Mary (Miffington) Townly willed a
portion of her vast Estate to Mary Lawrence
wife of John Lawrence in America, & as
seen the wills above mentioned, were
drawn many generations have passed away
& it is not to be supposed that the Government
ever told one more than it was obliged
to concerning this property that is a

matter they would be likely to keep
 quiet about & the facts can be gotten
 at only when a descent from Mary Lowndy
 can be clearly shown than a claim
 can be made by such persons as their
 right in the premises, I have been informed
 by authority that is beyond question, that
 if there were heirs beyond the Sea at the
 time P. E. Lowndy took the Lowndy Hall Estate
 Entail, & if the wills above mentioned are
 as stated that there will be no great trouble
 in securing legal possession of the property
 previous to the marriage of Mary
 Lowndy to John Lawrence & the existence
 of her parents can be clearly shown,
 one great difficulty in my work has
 been that there have been so many great
 English Estates Palmer of an unscrupulous
 Bullie & that really so little is known con-
 cerning this one even by those who have
 investigated it. If there interested would
 only stick to one thing dig-ping out from
 the record & get that straight first they
 would be doing what they should have
 done a long time ago, Hon. Renssel Johnson
 while Minister to England looked into
 this matter he reported to the persons
 who told me, that there was an unclaimed
 Estate, the person who gave me this information

(8)
is unimpeachable veracity & what I have
stated can be corroborated at any time,
I quote Sam. Jaynes Statement viz: "Larp
John Lowmley, Estate in 1740 & Mary
Lowmley Lawrence Estate, Senes Exrtp,"
this is the first time I have ever heard
of a Larp John Lowmley or a Mary Lowmley
Lawrence "Estate", Whomever hears of this
I don't suppose that any particular name
has been given to the Property we are seek-
ing, it may be entered upon the Government
Books in one of a half dozen different forms,
but for convenience & because the people in
this Country do not know the correct name
for the property they are in search of,
it has been called at various times, the
Lowmley, "the Lowmley-Chase," the Lowmley-
Williams" & the Lowmley Steamers," Estate
Just as it suited the fancy of those who
have been interested, I have sent you
this letter because I want you to understand
something of what the facts are, as the items
I have alone quoted is going the rounds of the
Newspapers, it will undoubtedly have a temp-
erency to mislead, Many who are ignorant of the merits
of the Case & who are too prone to jump at anything the New-
spapers report, but Newspapers are very houblerom & print
a great deal about meaning of which, they care

THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

FACTS RELATING TO THE

"LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY," "CHASE-TOWNLEY," MARRIAGE
AND ESTATE QUESTION.



WITH GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
FAMILIES OF TOWNLEY, CHASE, LAWRENCE,
STEPHENS, STEVENS, AND OTHER
FAMILIES OF AMERICA.

BY

FRANK ALDEN HILL.

RAND AVERY COMPANY, BOSTON,
MADE THIS BOOK.
1888.

CHAPTER II.

REFERS TO THE GENEALOGIES, TRADITIONS, MEETINGS, AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE LAWRENCE, CHASE, AND OTHER FAMILIES.

THE following is the genealogy of one of the Lawrence families, compiled by the descendants of John, William, and Thomas Lawrence of Long Island:

" The first ancestor of this family known was Sir Robert Laurens of Ashton Hall, in Lancashire, England, who flourished in 1191, and received the knighthood from King Richard, also a coat of arms, which is appended to the will of William Lawrence, 1680, and Richard Lawrence, 1711, in the Surrogate's office, New York City. Sir John Lawrence, the ninth in lineal descent from the above Sir Robert Laurens, flourished in 1491. He killed a gentleman usher of King Henry VII., was outlawed, and died in exile in France, issueless, when Ashton Hall and his other estates passed by royal decree to his relations, Lords Monteagle and Girard. Three brothers, John, William and Thomas Lawrence, descended from Sir John Lawrence, emigrated to America. John Lawrence, the eldest, was born in Great St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England, in 1618, came over in the ship Planter, N. Travis, Master, and landed in Plymouth, Mass., in 1635, from whence he went to Long Island, afterwards resided in New York, where he held many public positions, and died in 1699, leaving descendants. His will, written in 1698, is on file in the Surrogate's office, New York. William Lawrence, the second brother of John, was born in 1623; in 1635 he came over with John, in the ship Planter, and became the proprietor of Lawrence's Neck (so-called) which stretches into Long Island Sound, between Flushing Bay and Whitestone, about nine hundred acres, a part of which is the present site of St. Paul's College. William Lawrence held many civil and military offices, and died in 1680 leaving numerous descendants. His son Joseph, by his second wife, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, the patentee of Smithtown, married Mary Townley in 1690. After the death of William Lawrence in 1680, his wife, Elizabeth Smith, married the Hon. Philip Carteret, Governor of New

Jersey, in April, 1681, and removed to Elizabethtown with her family. The town was named after Elizabeth Smith.

Philip Carteret died in December, 1682, his widow then returning to Long Island. Thomas Lawrence, the youngest of the three brothers, came to this country after the brothers John and William. In 1655 Thomas and his brothers obtained possession of a tract of land in Newtown, Long Island. Thomas afterwards purchased the whole of Hell-Gate Neck, from Hell-Gate Cove to Bowery Bay. He died in Newtown, in July, 1703, leaving five sons, Thomas, William, John, Daniel and Jonathan, of whom John alone permanently remained at Newtown. A large number of descendants sprung from these brothers, John, Thomas and William. The list is to be found in Thompson's History of Long Island and Holgate's American Genealogy, published by George P. Putnam in 1851. Henry Lawrence was a descendant from Sir John Lawrence, who flourished in 1491, and, therefore, a connection of John, William and Thomas. He was an adherent of Oliver Cromwell, and his picture is seen as President, in Clarendon's history of the Rebellion. His gravestone, not yet effaced, is in the Chapel of St. Margaret, Alias Thele, in Hertfordshire. The coat of arms can be traced on it, viz : -a cross, raguly, gules. The crest, a fish's tail or demi dolphin."

In connection with the above document it is stated, that , Joseph Lawrence (who married Mary Townley, 1690) had as children Elizabeth (married John Bowne, 1714), and Abigail, who married Major Alexander Forbes of the British Army. The descendants of another of the Lawrence families have been given the following history:

The family of Lawrence is traced plausibly to a Robert Lawrence, who settled in Lancashire, and ,was knighted in 1191 for valorous deeds at the siege of Acre, yet more positively to a sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall, whose marriage to Anna Trofford in 1298 is a matter of public record; and the records of Ashton Hall for a period of four hundred years bring us to a son of the house named John, who married Mary Townley, of Townley Hall. The descendants; of this pair are the heirs officially called for so frequently by the English authorities.

Ashton Hall is situated six miles west of Manchester; is entitled to one member of Parliament, and is remarkable, among other features, for a large church of the time of Henry the Fifth; and the Lawrence family is thus prominent in English history. But the enormous possessions of the Lawrence-Townley family are derived from the wife. Mary Townley was the oldest daughter of Sir Richard Townley and Mary Widdrington, of Widdrington, Northumberland County, of notoriety from his connection with the hero of Chevy Chase, of whom was sung :

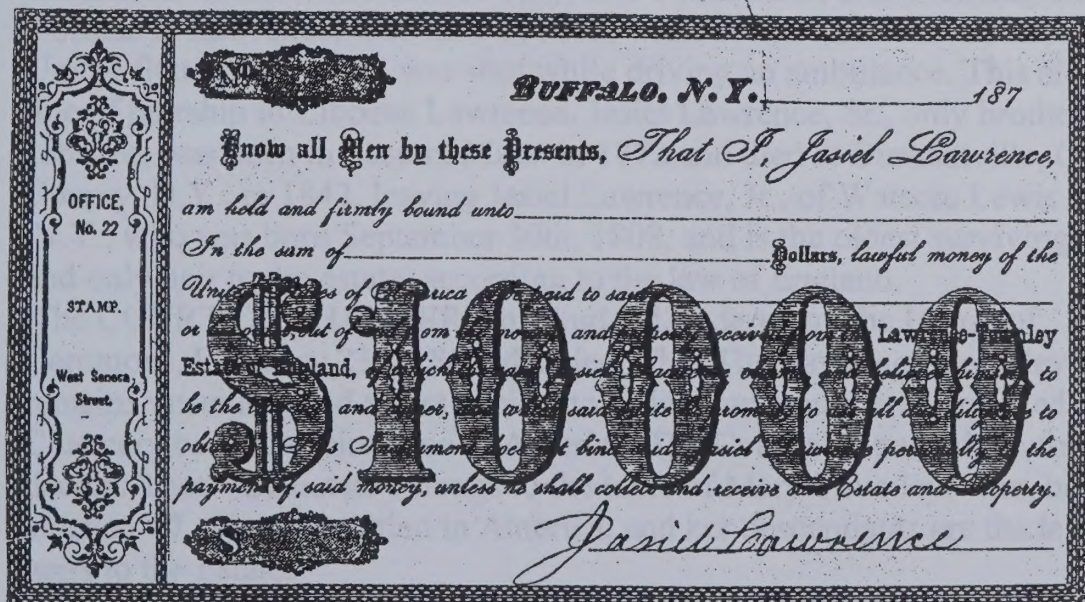
" My heart is woe for Widdrington,
As one in doleful dumps ;
For when his legs were smitten off,
He fought upon his stumps."

The Widdrington Estate included many mining properties in Durham County near to New-Castle-upon-Tyne. These, of very great value, were conveyed by will to his daughters, and by marriage. settlement secured to her separate right and were accordingly willed to her two daughters, Mary and Dorothy. The former married, against her father's consent, John Lawrence, who was a Protestant, and socially inferior, doubtless, as he elected to follow the seas. The couple eloped and were married in the English Kirk at the Hague in Holland. As Mary Townley . Lawrence was about to become a mother, she made application to be received at Townley Hall but Sir Richard refused to receive her, and she returned to the ship Highflyer which had brought her from Holland, and of which her husband was the second officer; and on board this ship were born twin sons. The ship put into the port upon the Solway which was nearest to Corby Castle, where her sister Dorothy, who had married Lord Effingham, resided ; and there, at the church of the parish Witherel, to which Corby Castle belonged, the twins were baptized by the names of John and Jonathan. The former together with a sister Mary, subsequently born at the Hague, emigrated with their parents to America in the autumn of 1714, and the family were virtually lost to their English relatives, being in constructive disgrace from the powerful effect of the anger of Sir Richard Townley, of Townley Hall, whose high social position and great wealth added force to his displeasure throughout the circle of his kindred. These emigrants, John and Mary Lawrence, with their son and daughter, were with difficulty followed in their wanderings after their arrival in America, for the reason, chiefly, that the father and son followed the seas and the females would have only such temporary abodes on shore as might suit the coasting expeditions of father and son.

The son, however, eventually found a home at the mature age of 43, in a town not far from Boston, and his marriage is recorded to have taken place November 13, 1738. He became conspicuous as an officer commissioned by Governor Shirley, in the French and Indian war, and was rewarded, with others, by his Majesty King George Third, by a grant of five hundred acres of land in Nova Scotia. Upon this grant he settled and there died in 1769. The family history has been traced from him with sufficient authenticity, it is supposed, to justify the institution of legal proceedings, and these have quite recently been commenced. In 1743, or five years after the marriage of Jonathan Lawrence, there culminated several large estates into one- the one now called the Lawrence Townley Estate.

Another of the Lawrence families claims descent from John Lawrence who settled in Watertown, Mass. They have the same general story, viz.: - "That John Lawrence married Mary Townley, ran away to America, etc. " For a full genealogy of this family, see The Genealogy of John Lawrence of Watetown, Mass. (by John Lawrence), printed by

Whipple, Boston, 1857. Next in prominence for their efforts is the Chase family, of which the late Chief Justice, Salmon P. Chase, was a member. And as early as 1847 (besides previous efforts in 1830), a lengthy notice appeared in a Baltimore paper, stating that by a decree of the High Court of Chancery, three-fourths of the Townley Estate belonged to William, Thomas, and Aquilla Chase, or descendants, and the remaining one-fourth to another brother, or descendants, whose Christian name the Court was unable to ascertain. This statement was entirely without foundation, as no such decree ever existed. Next we mention the Townley family, a family well known in the Middle and Western States, as well as in the Canadas; and one that has enrolled among its members the names of many prominent citizens. This family have been very enthusiastic in claiming that they were related to Mary Townley of Lancashire, and have spared no effort to prove their claim to be a true one. But without avail. Effingham Townley, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey (deceased), was so confident that the estate in question would fall to him, that he made provision for its distribution in his will to his children. They have family traditions concerning a large Townley Estate in England. besides a correspondence that passed between Richard Townley of New Jersey and Charles Townley, Clarenceux (descendant of Nicholas Townley, deceased, formerly of Littleton House near London). This correspondence was in 1765-6-7-8, and, although the marriage at that time had taken place, it referred in no way to a Mary Townley who left her home and came to America, nor to any estate for the heirs of such a person. Next we mention the Williams family of New Hampshire, who are positive that Sarah Lawrence, who married their ancestor, was the daughter of Mary Townley, who married Joseph Lawrence.



FACSIMILE. REDUCED ONE-THIRD OF ORIGINAL SIZE.

On the back of the bond of Jasiel Lawrence appears the following:

"GENEALOGY, AND DECREE OF CHANCERY"

" It is now certain that Jasiel Lawrence, of Watson, Lewis County, New York, is the SOLE HEIR to the Lawrence Townley Estate. The Lawrence family in different parts of the country have expended large sums of money in investigating their claims to this estate, but in vain, all of them having failed to prove their heirship to this immense fortune, as the pure blood of MARY TOWNLEY, through whom the estate is derived, did not flow in their veins. This Mary Townley was married in England to John Lawrence, the ancestor of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This marriage of John Lawrence and Mary Townley is found in the English Records. They emigrated to this country in 1716. The said John Lawrence, and Mary Townley his wife, had only one son, named Jonathan, who was the great-grandfather of Jasiel Lawrence, the present heir-at-law to this estate. This Jonathan Lawrence married Hannah Robbins, of Walpole, Massachusetts, in 1738, by whom he had two sons, Jonathan, Jr., and William. Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., was the eldest son, next heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He was born in Walpole, Mass., in 1739. He married Rachael Smith, of Easton, Mass., in 1762. This fact is proved by the town records of Easton, and by other official documents in the possession of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and Rachael his wife, had two sons, Libbeus and Jasiel. Libbeus was born in Nova Scotia, in 1765, and died in Lansingburgh, N.Y., in 1818, leaving one son, John A. Lawrence, who died in Troy, N.Y., June 10th, 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence, who died in 1862, without heirs. He was a soldier in the United States Army, and was shot while driving an ambulance. This closed the line of heirship of Libbeus Lawrence. Jasiel Lawrence, Sr., only brother of Libbeus, was born in Easton, Mass. in 1772, and died at Durhamville, Oneida County, N.Y., in 1842, leaving Jasiel Lawrence, Jr., of Watson, Lewis County, N.Y., who was born September 30th, 1808, and is the oldest surviving son, and only heir to the estate, according to the law of England.

'The COURT OF CHANCERY of England, ordered by the House of Commons, February 23d, 1865, decided: That The Lawrence-Townley Estate remains unsettled, and as yet subject to a claimant, and there is marked on the Chancery books, -Heirs gone to America. The Court also passed the following decree: That' The Estate belongs to the heirs of Mary Townley, who, having married a Lawrence, settled in America, and her descendants are the legal heirs to the Estate. "

[NOTE. -The above statement is false in every particular.]

There is still another family who claim Mary Townley as an ancestor, and who say that she married a Herbert. A few of the times and places of meetings of the above families are given below. There was a large gathering of the Townleys of America, at Elizabeth, New Jersey, September 21, 1845, at which time a commission was sent to England. In 1852-3, meetings were held, funds collected, and Columbus Smith, of West Saulsbury, Vermont, and J. B. Price, of Philadelphia, were sent to England as counsel. The report of Columbus Smith, I believe to be truthful, and, as far as his examination proceeded, considering that he was laboring in an entirely wrong direction, I think he accomplished all that the circumstances permitted.

A meeting of the Lawrences was held at the next of kin office of Mr. Hayes, 327 Broadway, and at the Merchants' Hotel, New York, in July, 1857. A large meeting of the heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, Mass., was held in Boston, in April, 1855. At the American Hotel, Toronto, Canada West, a large gathering of the claimants was held in April, 1867. A gathering of the possible heirs took place at Middletown, N. Y., in October, 1877. The above are a few of the many meetings that have been held at different times by the supposed heirs to the Townley estate.

I quote the following from a pamphlet printed with the assent of Mr. Jasiel T. Lawrence: - "Some fifty years ago, in a suit brought by the Lawrences of Boston and vicinity, in the English Court of Chancery, the Court denied the suit as it was found, in the language of the decree, case No. 24, 366: 'That the said claimants are not the lawful and lineal descendants of John Lawrence and Mary his wife; and that they are not in the line of descent.' The Hon. Abbott Lawrence and Daniel Webster, the latter in the interest of the Chase family, in its early connection with said estate, have had to do with the inquiries instituted." And from the same source I quote as follows:

"The Opinions of Eminent Lawyers:

"UTICA, N.Y., Aug. 8, 1868.

"At the request of Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, of Lewis County, and others I have examined the general features of the claim made by him and others to property in England, known as the Townley Estate. In my opinion there is sufficient evidence that they are, and can probably establish that they are entitled to said estate, to warrant the employment of a competent person to investigate the matter, and thus ascertain whether their claim can be established or not by competent proof.

"

(Signed,
FRANCIS
KERNAN

H. Stark, Verona,
R. W. Phillips, Utica, & others, *Witnesses*

ROCHESTER
July 5,
1870.

" Dear Sir: -In respect to the claim of Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, I have expressed the opinion that he is an heir to the Townley Estate, and the facts justify his expenditure of the necessary money to investigate and enforce his claim.

" " (Signed,) JOHN H. MARTINDALE,

Late Attorney General of the State of New York and Military Governor of D. C.
Witness- J. W. Parker, East Pike, Wyoming. County, New York."

Mr. P. Keam, of Keaw &, Porter, Attorneys-at-Law, Cincinnati, under date of May 3, 1875. says: -"I have spent a great deal of time and patience in examining the title and claims of the several claimants to the Townley-Lawrence Estate in England. There is no doubt in my mind but that the estate, worth several millions of dollars, is there awaiting the lawful claimants. From numerous letters received from parties who have made a study of this question, and who were suppose to be authorities, we condense as follows :- "The last lineal descendant of Townley Hall was Charles Townley, who died in 1805. Since his death the Hall has been leased three times by the government to collateral heirs of the Townley family. A late occupant was Col. Charles Townley, who died suddenly on Saturday morning, November 11, 1876. The deceased was born in 1803.

The estate known as the Townley Estate consists of four estates that have lapsed into one, namely -the Howard Estate, descended from Francis Howard (Lord Effingham), on which Corby Castle is located; the Standish Estate; the Widdrington Estate and the Townley Estate, near Burnley, in Lancashire. Corby Castle and the Howard property are said to rent for four hundred thousand dollars per annum. Townley Hall and the Townley Estate are said to rent for a like sum per annum. In the wills of the late occupants of Townley Hall no transfer is made of any part of the Townley Estate.' The Townley Estate passed into Chancery in the early part of the present century, and the first advertisement concerning it appeared in 1827.

The following copies of circulars are of interest in this connection :

CAUTION.

WHEREAS, printed circulars have been sent out purporting to give the proceedings of a meeting of the LAWRENCE COMMITTEE, held at the Merchants' Hotel, in Courtlandt st., New York, July 20th, 1857, in which my name is used as being Chairman, and assigning the proceedings of said Committee. I was not Chairman of any Committee when Thomas Mc-Dowell and Lewis P. Hunt were chosen as Agents to proceed to England, nor did I sign any proceedings of any Committee held there.

"Beware of the first fraud."

JAMES S.
LAWRENCE
Freehold, N.
J.

JULY 31st, 1857.

At a meeting of the Lawrence heirs, held at the next of kin office, 327 Broadway, New-York, this day, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the heirs present recognize MR. HENRY HAYS as the only legitimate means of reaching the object at which they are aiming."

W. L. WINCHELL,
J. D. FOX,
J. Q. A. COFFEEN,
Executive Committee

JA
S.
LA

JULY 24th, 1857.

LAWRENCE-
TOWNLEY
ASSOCIATION.
DAYTON, O., June 1,
1873.

As a person interested in the Lawrence-Townley estate, your attention is called to the fact that there has been a decision of the English Court of Chancery, by which three fourths of the sum of \$380,000,000 has been awarded to the American heirs of Mary Townley. This vast property comes from Sir R. Townley, living about 1600, at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England. Mary Townley was heir to this immense estate. \$260,000,000 has

been awarded to her heirs in America, and as one of her heirs you are interested in the investigations of the following questions :

1. Who are the legal heirs of Mary Townley-Lawrence ?
2. What is necessary to do to establish said title or claim?
3. Can you establish your claim, or on what proof do you base your claim ?

We wish to impress upon you that no one but YOU can furnish your family history, consequently if you do not do it it will never be done. This is all that is wanting now. Will you do it? No other person has as much interest in your case as yourself. By furnishing us all the evidence you can obtain, as soon as possible, We may be able to supply any wanting links in your chain from other sources. But we can not do this without your help. Please forward to us as soon as possible a full family history of your ancestry as far back as you can give it- names, dates, &c. *not supposed*, but what you can prove -and we will then place them, with others, in the hands of attorneys to arrange. Will you unite with us and give all the aid possible ? and there is no doubt about the successful result. It is a big undertaking, and can only be accomplished by united effort. If you do not desire to push your claim any longer, please notify W. L. Winchell, Corresponding Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, Dayton, Ohio, so that there may be no delay waiting for your proof. It may be a fortune to you to attend at once to this matter, but you alone must decide as to what you can or will do.

Respectfully,

W. L. WINCHELL,
J. D. FOX,
J. Q. A. COFFEEN.
Executive Committee.

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMED.

A Report of the Delegates to the Meeting, held at Buffalo, N.Y., Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 1876.

PROCEEDINGS.

A meeting of the delegates, representing the interests of nearly all the heirs to the Lawrence-Townley Estate, as also, the interest of the heirs to the Lawrence Estate proper; was held at Buffalo on the 3rd day of February, 1876, for the purpose of taking further action in prosecuting the claims to these vast estates. After organizing the meeting by electing S. S. Brown, of Perrysburg, President, and P. Ream, of Cincinnati, Secretary, the

President stated that the object of meeting was to unite the interests of the several heirs into one common interest, under one body of Directors, so that the claims might be prosecuted more vigorously and harmoniously than had been done heretofore. D. B. Carver, of Albany, made a spirited speech, urging upon the Association the necessity of all members making a speedy compilation of their pedigrees, so that the case might be completed in Record evidence, before commencing action in the English Courts of Chancery. A full history of the organization and progress of the Western Branch of the Lawrence-Townley Association of Cincinnati, was laid before the meeting by Dr. Shepherd, of Glendale, President, and P. Ream, of Cincinnati, the Counsel of the Association. After which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

1st. Resolved, That there be elected a National Board of Directors, consisting of seven members, five of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; This Board to be clothed with authority from all parties interested in either of the estates, to perform such acts as in their opinion are necessary to raise funds to complete the records and pedigrees of the members, and to defray the expenses of a vigorous prosecution of the case to a final termination. The following gentlemen were elected as members of the National Board of Directors :

Dr. SHEPHERD, Glendale, O.

DAN. LAWRENCE, Reading, O.

S.S.BROWN, Perrysburg, N. Y.

D. W. HAMMOND, Ontario, Canada.

FRED. WELLMAN, Cincinnati, O.

CHARLES TINKER, Geneva, O.

A. C. KINGSBURY, Watkins, N. Y.

2nd. Resolved, That the Board of Directors be empowered to elect delegates to procure Powers of Attorney and Releases from the heirs in both the United States and British Dominions; to draw up Articles of Association for the purpose of forming a Joint Stock Company, with power to issue Bonds, which shall be made in conformity with law, binding on all the heirs, for the purpose of raising funds to defray the necessary expenses in prosecuting the case; said funds to be used under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors, in connection with their Counsel, and that they act with such Barrister or Barristers as may be retained by said Board, in the final prosecution of the case in England.

3rd. Resolved, That all papers, pedigrees, and Records of every description, and from all resources, shall be passed over to the National Board of Directors, to be used by them for their entire use and benefit, in completing the pedigree of any member who may be a contributor to the general fund, or for such other purpose as said Board may require. The Board may however give such a consideration for any valuable papers, as the)- shall deem just and equitable.

4th. Resolved, That all parties having an interest in either the Lawrence-Townley Estate, or in the Lawrence Estate, shall be entitled to the benefit arising from the genealogies or

pedigrees already compiled, or that may hereafter be traced out by order of said Board; and that their interest shall be prosecuted without any additional fee further than may be required as a general assessment by the Board of Directors for the purpose of liquidating expenses.

5th. Resolved, That this meeting recommends to the National Board of Directors as Counsel, D. B. Carver, of Albany; George Day, of Troy; Gen. Durbin Ward and Peter Ream, of Cincinnati; and such Barristers in England as may hereafter be decided upon.

6th. Resolved, That said National Board of Directors do meet for the purpose of carrying into effect the above resolutions, at as early a date as possible. The same to convene at a call from Dr. Shepherd, of Glendale, who is to act as President until the regular organization of the Board.

DR. SHEPHERD, Prest., *Pro Tem.*, P. REAM, Sec'y, *Pro Tem.*

The above Association, properly known as "The Western I., Association of the Lawrence-Townley Estate," had for the basis of its action the statement that Richard Towneley, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Widdrington, had two daughters - Mary, who married John Lawrence, and Dorothy, who married Sir Francis Howard, afterward Lord Effingham; together with the remainder of this story as given on a preceding page. On the strength of this statement, certain members of the Lawrence family residing in Cincinnati and vicinity, who had never devoted themselves to genealogical matters, were persuaded to form the above Association. The statement was entirely false, as I have shown in another part of this volume; and those, who expended their time, money, and labor, to form this Association, were sadly imposed upon. The President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the above Association, as well as the late Dr. Coffeen, I knew personally as being men of strict integrity and honesty of purpose. Dr. Shepherd, President of the above Association, has devoted himself for many years to the work of ascertaining the truth, or falsity, of the American traditions; and when he found that it could not be obtained through the medium of the Association in question, he sought my services in 1884, and we have gone to the bottom of the matter, as will be seen in the following chapters.

The statement that Sir Richard Towneley who married Mary Widdrington, had a daughter Dorothy, is false. Richard Towneley, born in 1687 (grandson of Richard Towneley- and Margaret Paston), married, subsequent to 1710, the Hon. Lady Mary, daughter of William, 3rd Lord Baron Widdrington, a copy of whose will (drawn March 26th, 169-!) is in my possession. They had no child named Dorothy; and not being married until after 1710, they could have had no daughter Mary to marry any John or Joseph Lawrence in 1690. nor 1693. The brother-in-law of this Richard Towneley- was William, 4th Lord Baron Widdrington, who married for his first wife Jane Tempest. He was heir to the Widdrington estates. Towneley and Widdrington were implicated in the Rebellion of 1715, and were tried for high treason. Towneley was acquitted, although he deserved to be convicted. Widdrington was convicted, but escaped death through the influence of friends in the Royal Court.

He was, however, deprived of his honors, his real and personal estate was sold, and the amount realized, together with the rents and profits thereof, in all about \$500,000, was paid into the receipts of the Royal Exchequer.

This left William Widdrington a poor man, and in 1722 [see Journal of the House of Commons] Parliament granted " to William, late Lord Widdrington, the sum of £12,000 to enable him to live." William Widdrington died at Bath, England, in -1743, having married for his second wife a Mrs. Graham.

Richard Towneley died August 18th, 1735. I have a copy of his will, and there is no mention in it of any daughter Dorothy. His will was drawn February, 1731-2, and probated October 10th, 1735. The only daughter he had was Mary Catharine, who married Thomas Hornyold, of Blackmore Park, County of Worcester, Esq., who died in 1762. She was not of age when her father died. The " Historical Register and Chronological Diary ," for 1729 (vol. 16, p. 34), reports the death of Mary Widdrington as follows: -" July 2d, 1729, Dy'd, the Hon. Mrs. Mary Towneley, " wife of Richard Towneley, of Towneley, Esq ., and sister of the " present Lord Widdrington."

There is not, and never was, any record of any marriage of a John Lawrence to a Mary Towneley, daughter of Richard Towneley and Mary Widdrington his wife. There is no record of the baptism of John and Jonathan Lawrence upon the Church Registers at Wetheral. I have visited Wetheral and Corby Castle, and the Corby estates do not, and never did, belong to the Towneley family. They are at present in the possession of one of the Howard family. Corby Castle is at present rented to Mr. E. Bebrems.

No John Lawrence with a wife Mary Townley, ever came to Massachusetts or Nova Scotia; and the Jonathan Lawrence who in 1738 married Hannah Robbins in Walpole, Mass., was not in any way descended from Richard Towneley and Mary Widdrington. The Lawrence family of England never resided at Ashton Hall, near Manchester. Ashton Hall, about 6 miles from Manchester, is in the village of *Ashton-under-Lyne*, and was the home of the Assheton, or Ashton, family. The home of the Lawrence family was Ashton Hall, about three miles from the city of Lancaster. A portion of the old building is still standing, but the property passed from the hands of the Lawrence family long ago. The last male heir was Sir Robert Lawrence, Knight, whose co-heiress Sibel married Thomas Hesketh, Esq., of Rufford. Ashton Hall passed into the possession of James Earl of Arran, in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

Mr. George W. Chase, of Olathe, Kansas, has for years asserted that he found in England a Decree of the Court of Chancery, issued in relation to a suit brought by Jonathan Lawrence and others, in 1827, to recover the estate of Mary Townley who married John Lawrence. Mr. Chase gives the date of the issuing of this Decree as 1829, and states that he has a copy of it. In a circular issued by Mr. Chase, August 31st, 1875, is the following:

- "The great obstacle in the way was a lack of the date of the decision of the Court of Chancery. Within a short time I have obtained that, and can at any time after we get prepared, lay claim to it. There is but one place in England where it is recorded. " And in the same circular he says - " Above all the case was kept in Chancery for many years, and finally decided in 1829, which leaves us but a short time in which to present and prove our claim. The time is coming when I will publish, in circular form, the decision.

I have personally examined the ' Decrees and Orders of the English Court of Chancery, as well as Chancery Bills and Answers,' from 1640 to 1860, under the names of Lawrence, Chase, and Townley, and I assert that there is no such Decree in existence, and never was. In a letter dated November 30th, 1880, Mr. Chase writes as follows: - ' John Lawrence married Mary Townley in Holland and came to America. I have full proofs with dates. This Mary Townley was daughter of Sir Richard Townley, the last male heir in direct line to inherit " the estate." Having " full proofs with dates " is, to say the least, putting it rather strong. Within the past two years and fully nine years after he had written that he had obtained the date of the decision of the Court of Chancery" - Mr. Chase writes as follows: - ' Mary Townley was married in London, in a church. Her parents were present, so the story of her elopement is not correct." There is a wide margin between his two statements. I have also personally examined the Records of the English Church in the city of Hague in Holland, as well as the records of Nova Scotia, and they contain no entry whatsoever of the marriage of a John or any other Lawrence to a Townley, nor the birth of any children from such parents. In fact, the name of Townley is not to be found in the said records.

James F. Jaquess and George W. Chase have for years deceived the public by spreading broadcast the story above referred to, and asserting it to be the truth. When I turned the direction of my work from the Stephens family to the families of Lawrence and Chase, I found that the said story formed the basis for the greater part of the action that had been and was being taken by the descendants of the Lawrence and Chase families. Step by step I have searched for the facts, and have found that these statements were false to the core.

In 1880 Messrs. Lamphere and Usher of New York City began an investigation of the question herein dealt with. On his return to this country, from England, Mr. Usher issued his report to those for whom he had been working. I have never met Mr. Usher, but an examination of his report (in the light of my present knowledge) convinces me that he has worked not only intelligently but with an honesty of purpose; although he did not succeed in tracing to its true source the tradition that has been banded down for so many years in the Chase and Lawrence families.

CHAPTER IV.

REFERS TO THE MAIN LINE OF THE TOWNELEY FAMILY, OF TOWNELEY HALL, NEAR BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.

CHAPTER V.

THE ROYLE AND LITTLETON BRANCHES OF THE TOWNLEY FAMILY.

CHAPTER VI.

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE ALIAS CARTERET ALIAS TOWNLEY, AND HER SON JOSEPH LAWRENCE, TOGETHER WITH SOME MENTION OF JOHN, THOMAS, AND WILLIAM LAWRENCE OF LONG ISLAND.

FROM Liber A of Deeds, p. 4, of Record at Jamaica, Queen's County, Long Island:
Entered at the desire of Mr Richard Smith &c. 30 March, 1681.

These presents Wittnes that whereas there is a purpose of joining in Marriage with Capt. Philip Carteret of New Jersey it is joyntly and fully agreed between him the aforesaid and me Elizabeth Lawrence late wife of Capt. William Lawrence of Flushing deceased -that I the aforesaid Elizabeth doe reserve liberty to give and dispose of all my right of land and meadow or housing within the Neck called Tews Neck unto any of my sons whom I shall see good and that no engagement whatever shall impead this agreement.

ELIZABETH
LAWRENCE.

Wittneth
RICHARD SMITH
SARAH L. SMITH mark
ABIGAIL NICOLLS

Copy of the Will of Elizabeth Townley, of Record in the office of the Secretary of State,
Trenton, New Jersey

" In the name of God, Amen, I Elizabeth Townley, the relict of Collo: Richard Townley of Elizabeth Town in ye County of Essex & Province of New Jersey, D: s'd, do think fit to make this my last will & testament in manner and form following I do give my Soul to

God, hoping for Salvation, thro' ye merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus X't& my body to ye Earth to be decently buried in hopes of a glorious Resurrection at ye last day & as for my temporal goods, I dispose of them. as followeth Imprimis I give unto my daughter Sarah Shackmaple all the furniture of ye room, in which I now lye, viz't, The Bed CurtainS & Cloathes & every thing belonging to it, a chest of Drawers, a Small Table & a glass; with the Chaires, I likewise give. her two other Elbow-Chairs, covered with ye same sort of stuff, wch is in ye Curtains of ye sa,id Bed. Item, I give & bequeath all my estate, Goods & Chattels wtsoever that is mine, or ought to be mine, unto my son Charles Townley, his Heirs & Assignes, excepting half my plate, wch I give to my son Effingham towards ye paymt of debts, & I charge & comand my son Effingham to be just to his brother Charles by granting him forthwith after my death a confirmation under his hand & seal for that land wch he knows his Father designed him; I do hereby constitute, authorize and appoint my dear son Charles to be sole Executor of this my last will & Testament, revoking and making null & void all other wills & Testaments by me heretofore made, either by word or in writing. In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eight day of March in ye Tenth year of ye Reign of Anne over great Brittain, ffrance & Ireland Queen &c Annoq Dom 1711-12.

The mark of
Elizabeth Townley L. S.

Signed, Sealed, published & declared by ye

Testatrix to be her last Will & Testament in ye presence of us:

EDWARD VAUGHAN, DEBORAH LAWRENCE, MARGARET
WILLOCKS.

" Memorandum yt part of ye twelfth & thirteenth line was blotted out before ye signing & sealing of this Instrumt."

The second husband of the above lady was Sir Philip Carteret, of the Isle of Jersey in England, who was first governor of the Province of New Jersey in America. He drew his will Dec. 10, 1682, which was proved the same month. In this will he gives his mother, Madame Rachell Carteret, all his houses, lands, *et cetera*, in the Isle of Jersey, for her use during her life, and at her decease to be divided among his brothers and sisters. He gives to my most dear and loving wife " all his houses, lands, *et cetera*, in New Jersey, unto her and her heirs forever," and makes his dear wife his sole executrix. (See Liber A or 5 of Deeds, p. 17, Trenton, New Jersey.)

The maiden name of Elizabeth-Lawrence-Carteret- Townley was Smith. She was a

daughter of Richard Smith, the patentee of Smithtown, L.I. She married for her first husband Capt. William Lawrence of Flushing, L.I., and had by him, among other children, Joseph, who, it has been said, married a Mary Townley. There is no evidence to show that such a marriage ever took place.

In Liber H 2 of Deeds, p. 3-18, in Trenton, New Jersey, appears a deed signed by Joseph Lawrence, who deeds to Joseph Bonny of Woodbridge certain lands in East New Jersey. In this deed the grantor describes himself as " Joseph Lawrence of Flushing, in Queen's County in Nassau Island and Province of New York Gent. eldest son of Elizabeth Lawrence alias Carteret alias Townley deceased of Elizabeth Town in the Province of East New Jersey.' This deed was drawn May 3, 1735, and Recorded June 26, 1755 by Affirmation of Daniel Lawrence being of the people called Quakers, , who was one of the witnesses.

From the fact that widow Elizabeth Lawrence became the wife of Sir Philip Carteret in 1681, the year after the decease of her first husband, and that, a short time after the decease in 1682 of her second husband, she married Richard Townley (who did not die until the latter part of 1707), it seems reason,.. able to suppose that her children *nee* Lawrence, who were still young, lived with her in the home of her third husband, and grew up with the children *nee* Townley of this third marriage. As it was quite natural that Richard Townley should have christened his eldest son Effingham, in remembrance of his friend Lord Howard, Baron of Effingham, in whose suite he came to America, it follows quite as naturally, that, out of regard for Effingham Townley, his Christian name should have been given to the grandson of his half-brother, Joseph Lawrence, and have come down through successive generations of both families.

The descendants of Joseph Lawrence, because Effingham has been used as a Christian name in their family, have looked upon that fact as of much importance in support of their tradition that their ancestor married Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Towneley of Lancashire, as they have believed that Dorothy Towneley (sister to Mary) married Francis Lord Howard, Baron of Effingham, which was not the case, as is shown below.

The following, from Holgate's American Genealogy,' forms the basis for the numerous traditions prevalent among the descendants of William Lawrence that his son Joseph married a Mary Towneley in 1690: -"Joseph Lawrence of Flushing, Long Island, in 1690, married Mary Townley daughter of Sir Richard Townley, son of Charles Townley who fell at Marston Moor. At the Restoration he was under the necessity of selling a very valuable estate at Nocton, near Leicester, in consequence of losses sustained by Sequestration. His daughter Dorothy, the younger sister of Mary, married Francis Howard of Corby afterward Baron Howard of Effingham, and who on the 8th of December, 1781, was created 1st Earl of Effingham. He died 1743."

In the preceding there is no room for doubt as to which Sir Richard, Mary and Dorothy Towneley, are referred to. In Chapter IV. I have shown that the said Richard Towneley

had no daughter Mary living in 1685, and consequently could have had no daughter Mary in 1690 to have married Joseph Lawrence. And particularly so since his, the said Richard's, wife, died in 1672. Dorothy Towneley referred to in the above extract was the second wife of Francis Howard, Esq., of Corby : - "Captain of a Regiment of Foot and sometime Governor of Carlisle. Born 29 June 1635, died Dec. 17, 1702, buried at Wetherel." - Monumental Inscription.

Dorothy his widow died 13 Dec. 1712. Said Francis Howard was never created Baron of Effingham, nor did he leave any male issue. And yet, on the statement published in Hölgate's American Genealogy, "hundreds of people have been led to believe that the descendants of the said Joseph Lawrence were also descended from the main line of the Towneley family of Lancashire. Neither John nor Joseph Lawrence ever married Mary Townley who was sister to Dorothy Towneley. Neither John nor Joseph Lawrence ever married Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley and Mary Widdrington. **There is not an iota of evidence to show that the said Joseph Lawrence married a lady whose maiden name was Mary Towneley, either in the latter part of the seventeenth, or in the early part of the eighteenth, century; but there is an abundance of proof to show that there was no Mary Towneley belonging to the main line of the Towneley family at that time whom he could have married.**

John, Thomas, and William Lawrence of Long Island were brothers from St. Albans in Hertfordshire, England. They came to this country in 1635 in the ship Planter, Nicholas Trarice commander; and it has been supposed that the maiden name of their mother may have been Towneley. Such supposition I know to be erroneous, as I have not only a copy of the record of the birth of each of the said brothers, as well as a copy of the record of the birth and marriage of their parents and grandparents, but also the coat-of-arms, of their mother's family.

CHAPTER VII.

REFERS TO LAWRENCE, CHASE, AND OTHER FAMILIES HAVING THE TRADITION THAT ONE OF THEIR ANCESTOIRS MARRIED A LADY TOWNLEY.

[See John Lawrence of Wisset for a complete GEDCOM file on the below family]

I COME now to the families of Experience Lawrence who married Jabez Keep of Westford, Mass., and Tryphena Lawrence who married her cousin Jonas Lawrence of Canaan, Conn.

The descendants of the above have for many years believed that they were from the Towneley family through one Jonathan Lawrence who was son to John Lawrence and Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley, and sister to Dorothy Towneley of Lancashire.

I have already shown that no John, or any other Lawrence, ever married Mary, sister to Dorothy Towneley ; and this fact alone destroys the truthfulness of their family tradition.

But, as I have traced step by step the pedigree of the said Experience and Tryphena Lawrence, it may not be out of place to refer to it in brief in this connection.

Will of Major Eleazer Lawrence. Of Record in Liber 27 of Wills, p. 270, Cambridge, Mass. :

"In the name of God Amen the twenty ninth Day of December and in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and forty nine I Eleazer Lawrence of Littleton in ye County of Middys in New England Gentm Being of Perfect mind and memory but calling to mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for men once to Die Do make this my Last Will and Testament that is to say first of all I Recomend my soul in to The hands of God that gave it hoping through the merits of Jesus Christ to have free pardon of all my sins and to Inherit Etarnal Life and my body I commend to the Earth to be Deceantly Buried at ye Discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as Touching such Worldly estate wherewith God has Bestowed on me I Dispose in Manner and form as follows, Itn. I give and Bequeth to Mary my Dearly Beloved wife allimony and Bonds & nots for money due to me at my Decease and all ye Household Goods waring apparil and Cattle to her & her heirs and assigns forever and also Improvement of the house Barn and Lands That I shall Dye seized off, During her life, she paying my just debts & funeral charges. Itn. I give and bequeath to my five sons vis. to my son Pelag Lawrance, Jonathn Lawrance, David Lawrance, Eleazer Lawrance, and Samuel Lawrance to them and their heirs & assigns the sum of Five shillings in money to each of them with what I have given to each of them by Deeds to be the full of their Portion out of my estate. Itm I give to my Daughters viz to ye heirs of my Daughter Elisabeth Buttrick Decead twenty shillings in money & to my Daughters Mary Fletcher, Sarah Cumings, and Experance Keep, Prudence Parker and to each of them or their heirs the sum of twenty shillings in money with what they have received before is to be the full of their portions out of my estate all which Legases to be paid unto them or their heirs in one year after my Decease by my executors hereafter named hereby I Do constute and appoint my wife abovsd and my son David Lawrance to be my Executors of this my Last will and Testament Disallowing all others aforemade by me. In witness whereof I have set my

hand and seal the Day and year above the words & Bonds & nots for money interlined before signing.

ELAZA LAWRENCE [SEAL]

Signed sealed published and Declared to be WILLIAM LAWRENCE
The last will & Testament of Eleazer Lawrance NATHANIEL
BOYNTON

In the Presence of: JOSEPH BOYNTON

Of Record in the same office: --

"Littleton December ye 19th 1754 To the Honourable Saml Danforth Esqr Judge of Probate for ye County of Middlesex may it Please your honour We the Subscribers being the children of our Honoured Father and Grandfather major Eleazer Lawrence Late of Littleton Deceased We hereby give our consent that ye Will of our said Father and Grand Father should be Proved and a Proved; and Disire your Honour would alow of the same: and whereas there is some small estate Left by our father not Disposed of by will we Disire therefore that our aged mother may be allowed to take administration and that the Improvement of the whole may be settled upon Her During Her life."

PELEG LAWRENCE..... JABEZ KEEP
DAVID LAWRENCE..... EXPERIENCE KEEP.
ELEAZER LAWRENCE..... JOHN CUMINGS
SAMUEL LAWRENCE..... SARAH CUMINGS.
BENJA. DAVIS..... PETER P ARKER
SARAH DAVIS..... PRUDENCE PARKER.
ISAAC RUSSELL.
MARY RUSSELL.

The said Honorable Samuel Danforth January 13, 1755 granted Letters of Administration unto Mary the widow.

The above shows conclusively that Experience Lawrence, who married Jabez Keep, was the daughter of Major Eleazer Lawrence of Littleton, Mass., and *not* the daughter of Jonathan Lawrence, son of John Lawrence and Mary Townley. Major Eleazer Lawrence was born in Groton, Mass., Feb. 28, 1674.

When Littleton was set off from Groton, he became a citizen of Littleton; and his name appears in the records of that town as one of the original landed proprietors. He was a son

of Peleg Lawrence, who was born January 10, 1646-7, in Watertown, Mass., and who married, about 1667, Elizabeth Morse, and settled in Groton, Mass. The grandfather of Major Eleazer was John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass. [1st wife, Elizabeth -; 2d wife, Susannah, daughter of William Batchelder of Charlestown, Mass.] ; removed to Groton, where he died, July 11, 1667.

Major Eleazer Lawrence married Mary, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Scripture of Groton; born Feb'y 7, 1680, by whom he had the following children:

1. Eleazer, date of birth unknown.
2. Elizabeth, born Feb'y 28, 1699
3. Peleg, born June 1, 1701
4. Jonathan, born Oct, 4, 1703
5. David, born Dec. 26, 1705.
6. Mary, date of birth unknown.
7. Sarah, date of birth unknown.
8. Samuel, born May 2, 1714.
9. Experience, born June 22, 1719
10. Prudence, born April 7, 1722.

Of the above, Eleazer married, June 25, 1731, Lucy Tuttle, by whom he had (among other children) Simon, born January 11, 1739, from whom some of the Walker and Adams families descend.

Jonathan married Tryphena Powers (his first wife), by whom he had Tryphena, born Sep. 26, 1735, who married Sep. 3, 1754, her cousin Jonas, son of Isaac Lawrence of Canaan, Conn., and died in West Stockbridge, Mass., Jan. 31, 1795, whose descendants, living in Tioga County, New York, and Bradford County, Penn., have spent a large sum of money in the vain endeavor to prove themselves descended from a Jonathan Lawrence, son of a John Lawrence and Mary Townley. The Jonathan Lawrence who was their ancestor is clearly, shown in the above.

Experience married at Westford, Mass., April 3, 1740, Jabez, son of Samuel and grandson of John Keep of Springfield, Mass. It will thus be seen that Experience Lawrence who married Jabez Keep in 1740, was aunt to Tryphena Lawrence, wife of Jonas, and daughter of Jonathan.

It is to be regretted that a few of the descendants of Experience Lawrence have insisted that the will of their ancestor Major Eleazer Lawrence is a forgery, and that the late Honorable Abbott Lawrence, while Minister of this Republic to the Court of Great Britain, caused certain gravestones to be taken from the graveyard at Groton, and transferred to England, by means of which he secured to himself, through parties in England, a large sum of money. This ridiculously false statement would not find a place here were it not for the fact that a few have influenced many to believe it to be the truth. Any one with the smallest degree of knowledge of genealogy and records will, without

any hesitation, admit the validity and genuineness of the documents above quoted, if they will only take the trouble to examine them in the Probate Office of Cambridge, Mass., where they are of record, and constantly under the custody of officials.

The Rev. John Lawrence of Cambridge, Mass., has compiled a most excellent genealogy of the descendants of John Lawrence of Watertown.

In addition to those mentioned, there are several other branches of the Lawrence family who have had the same Lawrence-Townley tradition. The majority of these can be traced either to John, Thomas, or William Lawrence of Long Island, or to John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass. The Kentucky branch of the Lawrence family, however, trace their pedigree to Levin Lawrence[Leven (?) the signature to his will is Levin] who married Susannah, daughter of John and Honor Dorsey of Maryland. She was born Dec. 12, 1717. Levin Lawrence died between April and September, 1756, and was probably buried in the graveyard upon the north side of the old Lawrence homestead, about twelve miles southwest from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. The house of Levin Lawrence, built in 1741, was still in good preservation when I visited it some five years since. One of the descendants of Levin Lawrence residing in Louisville, Kentucky, has the following coat-of-arms that has been handed down from generation to generation. "Argent, a cross raguly, gules, crest, two laurel branches vert, forming a chaplet," which implies a descent from the Lawrence family of Lancashire, England.

On the maternal side the following is their traditional genealogy:

"According to the traditions of the family three brothers, Edward, Joshua and John Dorsey (or D' Arcy, as they were more frequently called in the early State Records,) emigrated from Ireland and settled in Maryland not long after its colonization, The first appearance of the name was in 1660, when a tract of land called 'The Bush' containing four hundred ' acres, lying near Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Severn River was granted to Edward D'Arcy, In 1664 there was granted to Edward, Joshua and John D' Arcy two thousand acres of land lying on the Severn River, not far from where the city of Annapolis now stands, A part of this Tract called 'Hackley in the Hole' remained in possession of John D'Arcy's descendants from 1664 to 1829. John D'Arcy married a lady whose Christian name was Pleasance but whose surname is unknown, She survived her husband and married secondly Thomas Wainwright. John D'Arcy died in 1714 after having acquired a very large amount of real estate, most of it from Grants of the Lords Proprietary of Maryland many of his Surveys being at the present time among the most valuable lands in Anne Arundel County. He served for many years as a Burgess in the General Assembly. He had three children, Caleb, Edward and Deborah, Edward died in the lifetime of his father, leaving Edward and John.[?]

Caleb married Eleanor Warfield and died at an advanced age leaving a large property, as well as a large family.

John, son of Edward married Honor --- whose daughter Susannah married Levin Lawrence,"

The Towneley Arms are quartered with those of D'Arcy, as is of record in the College of Arms, London. It is possible that the descendants of Levin Lawrence through the family of Dorsey, or D'Arcy, may be descended from the Townley family. The descendants of Levin Lawrence are among the best citizens of Kentucky; and, while engaged in tracing their pedigree, they assisted me in my search by every means in their power.

Another Lawrence family, not heretofore mentioned, descends from Thomas Laurenzen, who married, June 9, 1663, Marritje Jans (widow of Cornelis Van Langvelt), and have also had the tradition of a Lawrence-Townley alliance. But the members of this family now living are convinced that such a tradition had no foundation in fact.

Thomas Laurenzen above was from Groningen in Holland; and, upon his admission to the Dutch Church in New York in 1662, he was styled "Thomas Laurenzen, Poppinga" which has puzzled his descendants of the present generation. His son, Baptized Laurens Thomassen, married May 10, 1687, Catharine Lewis. She died Sep. 15, 1702, and her descendants are scattered throughout the States of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio. Thomas Laurenzen belonged to the family of Adolphus Laurens, who in 1660 was Registrar and Burgomeister of Groningen in Holland, and who used a seal similar to the one now in possession of the descendants of the said Thomas.

Hannah Lawrence [see William Lawrence line] of New Jersey, who, December 8, 1771, married Richard Chamberlin of the same State, and Elizabeth Lawrence, who, July 26 1756, married David Olden, both of New Jersey, were descended from an ancestor totally distinct from any heretofore referred to, who came to this country about the middle of the seventeenth century. The same Lawrence-Townley alliance has been of tradition in this family, but without foundation.

There was a Joseph Lawrence [see Wisset line] with wife Mary living in Plainfield, and Killingly, Conn., in the early part of the eighteenth century. Said Mary survived her husband, and drew her will March 7, 1765 which was proved April 10, 1769. In it she mentions her daughter Mary and her grandchildren "Rachel Lawrence, Abigail Cady, Experience Williams, Relief Lawrence, Sarah Williams, Barcilla Gallup, Joseph Lawrence, Thomas Lawrence and Josiah Lawrence to eac of them a bible." Her daughter Mary married for her first husband Lemuel Dean, and after his decease she married John Williams, through which marriages the same Lawrence-Townley-marriage story has found its way into Warren, Williams, and Dean families of New England and the West. The said Joseph Lawrence of Plainfield, Conn., and Daniel Lawrence of Killingly, Conn. (whose descendants, have had the same story), are probably descended from John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass.

The descendants of Jacob Lawrence and of Timothy Tallman of Fishkill, N.Y., have the same story. These families, as well as the Willett family, descend from one of the three immigrants, John, Thomas, or William Lawrence, of Long Island, and none of their

ancestors married Mary Townley.

The Mackoy family of Kansas have had this same story with, the variation that Mary, daughter of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, married their ancestor Charles Gresham, with whom she lived in King William County, Va.; and that a daughter born of this marriage became the wife of ,their, great-grandfather, which is entirely a mistake.

Others of the Lawrence family, living in Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, and the Canadas, who trace their pedigree to Richard Lawrence of Richmond County, N.Y., have the same story, namely, that he married Mary Townley of Lancashire, which is also erroneous.

The descendants of Thomas, William, and Aquilla Chase have likewise been enthusiastic in the belief that it was one of their ancestors who married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Townley of Lancashire. They have been encouraged in this belief by designing men, and they do not descend from any of the Townley family. I cannot show any proof that Thomas, William, and Aquilla Chase were related to the grandparents of Richard Chase who married Margaret Townley, as I have not devoted my time and labor in that direction; but it is a likely supposition that they were so related, and that thus has come down to the present generation the tradition of the marriage of Lady Townley with one of their ancestors, together with the tradition of an estate in England belonging to them in consequence of such marriage.

From the preceding, the reader will note that the tradition of the marriage of Mary Townley of Lancashire to a Lawrence and a Chase (which I have shown to be false), has found its way into a number of families in this country. It is probable that the first interest in a property in England, belonging to a Chase family of America, began in 1735, when the will of Francis Townley (see pedigree, branch D) was contested by his sister Honor Hodgson, and other members of his family. Jeremiah, the father of Margaret Townley, who married Richard Chase, was only brother to the said Francis; and although Jeremiah was dead at the time of this suit, the property of his brother Francis, a part of it at least, should have descended to his daughter and only child, instead of falling to an entire stranger.

It is also probable that in 1796, when the properties of Royle and Greenfield, for want of an heir male, reverted to Anne Townley, who married Robert Parker, the descendants then living of Col. Richard Townley of New Jersey, and of Margaret (Townley) Chase of Maryland, as well as of Joseph Lawrence of Long Island, became somewhat excited over the event, and that such excitement extended to the various branches of the Lawrence and Chase families of America.

A new interest may have been aroused when; on Tuesday, June 11, 1822, "The London Times "printed the following:

"Parliamentary Intelligence, House of Commons Mon. June 10. Sir Robert Wilson said that a certain sum of money had been left by a Col. Townley for the benefit of widows of certain officers. He wished to know why the testators Will had not been yet carried into execution though the testator had died some years ago. Sir Charles Long said that the

ancestor married Mary Towney.

The Mackay family of Kansas have had this same story with the variation that Mary, daughter of John Lawrence and Mary Towney, married their ancestor Charles Gorton with whom she lived in King William County, Va; and that a daughter born of this marriage became the wife of their great grandfather, which is entirely a mistake.

Others of the Lawrence family, living in Massachusetts, New York, and the Canada, who trace their pedigree to Richard Lawrence of Richmond County, N.Y., have the same story, namely, that he married Mary Towney of Lancaster, which is also erroneous.

The descendants of Thomas, William, and Apollia Chase have likewise been enthusiastic in the belief that it was one of their ancestors who married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Towney of Lancaster. They have been encouraged in this belief by designing men, and they do not descend from any of the Towney family. I cannot show any proof that Thomas, William, and Apollia Chase were related to the grandparents of Richard Chase who married Margaret Towney, as I have not devoted my time and labor in that direction, but it is a likely supposition that they were so related, and that this has come down to the present generation the tradition of the marriage of Lady Towney with one of their ancestors, together with the tradition of an estate in England belonging to them in consequence of such marriage.

From the preceding the reader will note that the tradition of the marriage of Mary Towney of Lancaster to a Lawrence and a Chase (which I have shown to be false), has found its way into a number of families in this country. It is probable that the first instance in a property in England, belonging to a Chase family of America, began in 1735, when the will of Francis Towney (see pedigree, branch D) was consumed by his sister Hannah Hodgson, and other members of his family, towards the father of Margaret Towney, who married Richard Chase, was only brother to the said Francis; and although Francis was dead at the time of this will, the property of his brother Francis, a part of it at least, should have descended to his daughter and only child, instead of falling to an entire stranger.

It is also probable that in 1786, when the properties of Robert and Greenfield, for want of an heir, were sold to Anne Towney, who married Robert Parker, the descendants then living of Col. Richard Towney of New Jersey, and of Margaret (Towney) Chase of Maryland, as well as of Joseph Lawrence of Long Island, became somewhat excited over the event, and that each ancestor extended to the various branches of the Lawrence and Chase families of America.

A new interest may have been aroused when, on Tuesday, June 11, 1833, "The London Times" printed the following:

"Parliamentary Intelligence: House of Commons. Motion made by Sir Robert Wilson that a certain sum of money had been left by a Col. Towney for the benefit of widows of certain officers. He wished to know why the testator Will had not been yet carried into execution though the testator had died some years ago. Sir Charles Long said that the

£10,000 had been left to the Secretary at War for the widows of Captains, lieutenants, & ensigns, but that it had been necessary to take legal opinion as to the mode of proceeding; and the result, was that certain formalities must be gone through which required all the time that had since elapsed."

It has been frequently stated by parties in America that "The London Times" had years ago referred to a Townley estate dealt with by the House of Commons.

The above is the only reference, that I have been able to find, in support of such a statement, for which reason I have quoted it.

It has grown to be a nuisance to our foreign representatives in London, that they are constantly receiving letters about some estate that the writers fancy themselves entitled to. If the writers of such letters would only *think* before doing so, they would discover that the United States of America does not allow its representatives abroad any time or latitude for attending to such business.

There are also many who think they are entitled to money in the Bank of England. The Bank of England has under its control millions of dollars in unclaimed dividends. Now, suppose a person has good grounds for believing that he is entitled to a portion of these dividends; then the proper course to be pursued is for him to trace his pedigree to the one from whom he claims descent. If such pedigree is approved by the "College of Arms in London, then the matter can be brought before the Court of Directors of the Bank of England, and the money can be obtained.

I cannot close this volume without referring in brief to an opinion, that has taken hold of the minds of many, that some of my predecessors have been bought off from giving the heirs the true facts in the case. I undertook the work I have performed for the purpose of discovering if there were any grounds for the American traditions, and with a determination to carry it through to a finish, and present the actual facts to the public. Of course I labored hoping for a financial reward, which I have not obtained; and I can assure my readers, that any insinuations that either my predecessors or myself have been bought off, are as false as they are base.

In closing I wish to thank each and everyone who have in any way aided me in my efforts; and, if the facts which I have collected with much labor will prevent the public in future from paying any attention to the statements that I have shown to be false, I shall feel that my work has not been entirely in vain.

NOTE. -Those of the descendants of Robert and Mary Stevens (as well as their representatives) who have aided me in my work, will receive a copy of this book *free gratis*.

Those descendants of Col. Richard Townley, of New Jersey, and those descendants of Margaret (Townley) Chase, of Maryland, who have deeded to Dr. Alfred Shepherd and myself, will receive a copy of this book *free gratis*.

£10,000 had been left to the Secretary of War for the widows of Captains, Lieutenants & Messengers, but that it had been necessary to take legal opinion as to the mode of proceeding; and the result, was that certain provisions were made through which required all the time that had since elapsed."

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There are also many who think they are entitled to money in the Bank of England. The Bank of England has under its control millions of dollars in unclaimed dividends. Now, suppose a person was given grounds for believing that he is entitled to a portion of these dividends, then the person would be entitled to be paid in full his money in the one from whom he claims dividend. If such person is approved by the Congress of America in London, then the money can be brought before the Court of Directors of the Bank of England, and the money can be obtained.

I cannot close this volume without referring in brief to an opinion, that has been held of the minds of many, that some of my predecessors have been bought off from giving the being the true facts in the case. I understand the work I have performed for the purpose of discovering if there were any grounds for the American tradition, and with a determination to carry it through to a finish, and present the actual facts of the matter. Of course I labored hoping for a financial reward, which I have not obtained, and I can assure my readers, that my intention that either my predecessors or myself have been bought off, or as false as they are here.

In closing I wish to thank each and everyone who have in any way aided me in my effort, and if the facts which I have collected with much labor will present the public in future from paying any attention to the statements that I have shown to be false, I shall feel that my work has not been entirely in vain.

NOTE.—Those of the descendants of Robert and Mary Stevens as well as their representative who have aided me in my work, will receive a copy of this book free of cost.

Those descendants of Col. Richard Townley, of New Jersey, and those descendants of Richard Townley, Clerk of Maryland, who have aided me in my work, will receive a copy of this book free of cost.

To all others, the price of this book, *with the pedigrees*, will be \$4 per copy. For the book, *without the pedigrees*, the price will be \$3 per copy. For the pedigrees alone, the price will be \$2 each. Address the author, P.O. Box No. 1912, BOSTON, MASS..

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To all orders, the price of this book, with the postpaid, will be \$4 per copy. For the book, without the postpaid, the price will be \$3 per copy. For the postpaid alone, the price will be \$2 each. Address the author, P.O. Box No. 1912, BOSTON, MASS.

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did so. It was broken, and she asked me not to tell mother about it. The part the coat-of-arms was on was broken in three pieces.

After our visit to our other relative's house, brother Samuel and wife determined to go home by another way.

I have never seen my mother since. I believe mother told me that Lord Townley (the husband of Mary Lawrence) received the name of Townley with the property title, but that she could not remember what his former name was. His property was not large before he married Mary Lawrence.

The property came to her. Mother was very particular to tell me that the property was called the Townley estate. Of the three brothers and one sister (Williams) who came from England to America, one married widow Mary Dean, in Canterbury, and they moved to Plainfield, Conn.

She was a Lawrence before she was married.

The youngest brother (Joseph) married Experience Lawrence, of Plainfield, Conn. My father changed names with this brother when the above marriage took place, Joseph resuming his own Christian name, and retaining it to his death. I am not sure whether mother said the other brother's name was John or not, but I think she did.

Mary Williams, the sister of the three brothers, married a Driar. Her son, Joseph Driar, joined the Shakers, at Enfield, N. H. I remember distinctly that mother repeatedly said the place she had lived in, in England, and where her home was, was Lancashire.

THE MISSING LOCKET.

There are still living (or were a few years since) many persons who heard the foregoing history from the lips of Pamela Ingalls, and there is no reason to doubt but that she had it from her mother, who, in turn, had it from Mary Stevens, as there could have been no possible motive for either to deceive. That the story is not just as Mary Stevens related it, is probable, from the fact that Sylvia Ingalls did not tell it to her daughter Pamela until she was eighteen years of age, or in 1803, nine years after she had received it from Mary Stevens. As she then related it from memory, whatever discrepancies may be found in it can fairly be excused. Now, returning to Mary Stevens, of Canterbury, let us see what can be found tending to substantiate her story. First, we note that her statement that "she moved from place to place" with her husband, previous to settling in Canterbury, and that their name was changed to avoid pursuit, is seemingly corroborated by the fact that diligent search fails to reveal any record of the birth of her son, Robert Stevens, Jr., whose daughter Lydia testifies that her father told her he was ten years of age when his parents came to Canterbury. Again, John Hatha-

